

## COMMUNION SERIES ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN **WHY MANY CANNOT HANDLE THE TRUTH**

John 7:14-24

Why do some people never reach the point of receiving Christ as their personal Messiah? Why do some Christians grow vigorously while others languish in a mediocre walk? Surprisingly the answers to both questions are quite similar. It is based on your response to the truth. Sadly, many can't handle the truth.

Our passage today reveals people face to face with the Son of God, who proclaimed the truth to them – the message about Himself, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). Their response was to reject Him and what He said. You'll find out that the same things that hindered them, hinder the people who never come to Christ. It also hinders many Christians from living out their fullest potential as children of God.

Here are some reasons why some can't handle the truth:

### **1. You may reject the truth because it's message or messengers don't seem spectacular or impressive (John 7:14-18)**

- They despised Jesus not because they didn't know anything about him, but because they knew some things about him, and it turned them off.
  - "How did this man get such learning without having studied?" Their "amazement" didn't mean they were favorably impressed. Rather, they were surprised by His boldness to preach when He lacked the proper credentials from the so-called religious authorities.
- Verse 17 is the key to handling truth: ***"If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether My teaching comes from God."***
  - It is difficult for us to believe because it is difficult for us to obey. If you're willing to obey, God will show you that Jesus is God's true and righteous one. He is worthy of all your trust!
  - You learn by doing. When you do what Jesus says, you begin to understand with a deep conviction that he knows what life is all about. This explains why some new Christians, who immediately practice what they have learned, grow with astonishing rapidity. Those who put into practice the truth they hear begin to grow immediately.

- Others sit under the teaching of the Scripture for years hardly seem to grow at all; they are still childlike in their behavior, emotionally upset, anxious, and fear-ridden. Why? Because they are not doing what they hear.
- In his reply to their question about his “learning”, Jesus showed why we must listen to the truth, and who to listen to (vv. 18-19).
- Today, very similar things cause people to reject the truth of God’s Word:
  - They’re too busy looking at the externals, they forget their own internal state.
  - They’re too busy looking for the flaws of the messenger and so miss or dismiss the message entirely.
  - Perhaps some are looking for the exotic or mystical and miss what is right in front of them.

## 2. You may reject the truth because it does not align with your expectations or traditions (John 7:19-24)

- Jesus showed them that as law-breakers (“not one of you keeps the law”) they were choosing sin over obedience. And unrepentant sin causes blindness for the lost; and stunted spiritual growth for believers.
  - He explained his prior miracle (John 5:1-15) the one that caused the plot on his life: If ceremonial cleansing of one part of the body is allowed on Sabbath as circumcision, how much more the actual healing of the whole body on Sabbath?
- Today people reject the truth when it clashes against certain things precious to them:
  - Culture? Traditional religion? Popular beliefs?
  - Solution: “Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.”

### Final Thoughts:

When Peter and John spoke in Acts 4:13, the Jews marveled at their boldness, despite being uneducated and untrained. They realized they had been with Jesus. You see it's not what you know; it's **WHO** you know that counts. And if you've been hanging out with Jesus, if you've logged in some morning time with Him, some afternoon breaks in His Word, or some evening sessions of contemplation, even if you're unlearned and ignorant according to the world's scholastic system, people will marvel at you.

They will know that your life and words are a witness to the truth, a truth you handled well.