

COMMUNION SERIES ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN THE ONE WHO PROVES HIMSELF TO US

John 7:25-44

Despite their rejection, Jesus always took the time and effort to explain about Himself to people who refused to believe in him. This same unbelief however, would lead to the various confused responses to Christ that we see throughout our passage.

But then and now, Jesus proves Himself to us. Look at how He spoke to the hearts of His listeners then. He is saying the same things to us today:

1. JESUS PROVES HIMSELF BY HIS ORIGIN (vv. 25-31)

- Jesus testified that He had not come by Himself, but had come from God.
 - a) To come from God means that Jesus is eternal.
 - b) To come from God means that Jesus operated under the full authority of God.
- While there are many confused opinions about who Jesus is, your eternal destiny depends on believing the truth about Him.

2. JESUS PROVES HIMSELF BY HIS OUTCOME (vv. 32-36)

- The outcome of his life, as we now know, would be a glorious resurrection, a grand ascension and a sure return. For Jesus, Death is not the end, but the means to return to the glory He had with the Father before the world began (John 17:5), His being lifted up to where He was before.
- After the ascension, the truth of the gospel Jesus proclaimed would spread in Jewish and Gentile circles throughout the Roman Empire and beyond.
- What a contrast between "where I am, you cannot come" (John 7:34) and "that you also may be where I am"! (John 14:3). Had these men been willing to do God's will, they would have known the truth. After He was gone, they would seek Him, but not find Him. They missed the day of salvation. The time would come when some would look for him and die in their sins. As Jesus said in John 8:21, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come."

3. JESUS PROVES HIMSELF BY HIS OFFER (vv. 37-44)

- This is really the answer to these questions of the Jews, "What does he mean 'I am going away and you can't find me?'" Jesus indicates the process by which all that he has promised will be fulfilled.
- Jesus Christ blesses all who believe in Him with streams of the living water of His Spirit so that we will bless others:
 - a) Jesus Christ blesses all who believe in Him with the living water of His Spirit.
 - The scope of the promise: Jesus' offer is open to all.
 - The condition of the promise: To receive the living water, come to Jesus and drink.
 - The extent of the promise: Streams (gushing rivers) of living water!
 - The supplier of the promise: The Holy Spirit dwelling in each believer supplies us with every spiritual need.
 - b) Christ blesses us with streams of living water so that we will be satisfied in Him.
 - c) Christ blesses us with abundant streams of living water so that we will be a source of blessing to others.

From God . . . to us . . . to others. God never gives his blessings simply to be hoarded. He gives his blessings to us so that we can share them with others. The Holy Spirit brings God to us so we can bring God to others. The river flows from us to others. A genuine believer in Christ is not self-centered. He says to himself "I have been greatly blessed. I must pass these blessings along to others. I can't keep them for myself."

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Jesus said "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me." This is not just a word for those without Jesus; it is a word for all of us who know him. He says to each of us, "Come to me. Come just as you are. Come and don't delay. Don't spend another moment drinking from polluted fountains. Come and I will give you living water."

The start of the year is a good time for self-evaluation and to make good aspirations. Honestly assess the degree to which "streams of living water flowing from within" describes you. If it doesn't describe you at all, then come to Jesus and drink! Make it your priority to be satisfied daily with the riches of Christ. Walk in the Spirit and ask Him to fill you. Then get your focus off yourself and onto those you can bless.