

# “The Gospel of John: Hypocrites are Powerless!”

Dr. Geoffrey Plummer  
Calvary Baptist Church

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## Scripture

### John 7:19-30

“Did not Moses give you the Law, and yet none of you carries out the Law? Why do you seek to kill Me?” The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who seeks to kill You?”

21 Jesus answered them, “I did one deed, and you all marvel. “For this reason, Moses has given you circumcision (not because it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and on the Sabbath you circumcise a man. “If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on the Sabbath?”

24 “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

25 So some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, “Is this not the man whom they are seeking to kill? “Look, He is speaking publicly, and they are saying nothing to Him. The rulers do not really know that this is the Christ, do they? “However, we know where this man is from; but whenever the Christ may come, no one knows where He is from.”

28 Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, “You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. “I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me.”

30 So they were seeking to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.”

Back to the Gospel of John, Chapter 7

Last time, we saw Animosity and Astonishment

Jesus’s brothers mocking Him in disbelief

The common people in Jerusalem split on opinion of Jesus

### The Courtroom Scene Revisited

John 1 - The Apostle John ->	The Defense Attorney laying out the case: Jesus is God!
John 1 - John the Baptist ->	The First Witness
John 2 - The Miracles Begin ->	Wedding at Cana
John 2 - The Mixed Response ->	Jesus wasn’t entrusting Himself to the people -> No faith in the Jury!
John 3 - Nicodemus ->	The Elitist Reaction
John 3 - The Mission ->	John 3:16-17
John 4 - The Women at the Well ->	The Commoner Reaction
John 5 - The Case to Jerusalem ->	The Five Witnesses support Jesus
John 6 - The Case to Galilee ->	Jesus is the Bread of Life
John 7 - More Mixed Response ->	Some for Him, some against Him -> The Jury is still out!

This week -> The Hypocrites Confronted -> had been passive confrontation

## What is a Hypocrite?

Hypocrisy is the practice of feigning to be what one is not or acting like you believe what you do not

The word "hypocrisy" entered the English language c. 1200 -> "the sin of pretending to virtue or goodness"

Came to be used to describe actors on a stage -> over-acting or play-acting

It is deception -> hypocrites know they're acting or deceived into thinking they are honest

A hypocrite often says, "Do as I say not as I do!"

They are often legalists, watching over others and their behavior rather than looking at themselves

## You Have a Demon!

Jesus encounters the Jews and highlights their hypocrisy

### John 7:19-20

"Did not Moses give you the Law, and yet none of you carries out the Law? Why do you seek to kill Me?"

The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who seeks to kill You?"

"Hey, aren't you the guys who are supposed to be following the Law of Moses?"

But none of you actually follow the Law yourselves!

They call Jesus out as being crazy -> you have a demon!

Are they blind to their own behavior? -> They want to kill Jesus

**Luke 4:28-30** (Jesus reads the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth – "today this is fulfilled")

"All the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; and they got up and drove Him out of the city and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, **in order to throw Him down the cliff**. But passing through their midst, He went His way."

**John 5:18** (after healing on the Sabbath)

"For this reason, therefore, **the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him**, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God."

**John 8:59** (after saying that the Jews were the children of Satan)

"Therefore, they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple."

**John 10:32-33** (after Jesus says, "I and the Father are One")

"**The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him**. Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God."

They didn't like that Jesus was dethroning them

They didn't like He was speaking as an authority when they thought themselves to be the authority

The Jews would eventually convene a council for formally plan to get rid of Him:

## John 11:47-48 & 53

"Therefore, the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. "If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."

"So, from that day on they planned together to kill Him."

Jesus was a problem because He confronted them with the truth

"Truth has a scratch'd face" -> Scottish proverb

So, how do we deal with hypocrisy?

Rhinoceros vs. Hippo

The Rhino's body is built for defense -> 2-inch, thick skin made up of collagen

It's only weapon -> it's horn

## Ephesians 6:11-17

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the SHIELD OF FAITH with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and **the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, which is the word of God.**"

BREASTPLATE -> Defense

SHOES -> Defense

SHIELD -> Defense

HELMET -> Defense

SWORD -> Only Offensive weapon -> The Word of God

When we use the Word of God to call out Hypocrisy -> we need a thick skin, too

Because the claws and nails will come out after us

## The Double Standard

### John 7:21-23

"Jesus answered them, "I did one deed, and you all marvel. "For this reason, Moses has given you circumcision (not because it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and on the Sabbath you circumcise a man. "If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken, **are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on the Sabbath?"**

Jesus **calls them out directly** about their practices

"I did one deed, and you all marvel"

Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath (**John 5:1-16**)

This was the beginning of His persecution by the Jews

**He unabashedly overruled their authority** -> they didn't understand the Sabbath day was for man

"For this reason, Moses has given you circumcision (not because it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and on the Sabbath you circumcise a man."

Circumcision (Genesis) came before the Law and Moses (Exodus):

### **Genesis 17:10-14**

"This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. "And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you. "**And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations**, a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants. "A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus, shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. "**But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.**"

So, if a male child is born on a Saturday -> He would be circumcised the following Sunday -> on the Sabbath

"If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on the Sabbath?"

It is a Double Standard -> you cannot have it both ways

Circumcising a boy is just as much work as healing a man

**Jesus says, "You don't even follow your own rules!"**

### **You're Hypocrites!**

#### **John 7:24**

"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

Jesus reiterates a principle He shared in the Sermon on the Mount:

#### **Matthew 7:1-5**

"**Do not judge so that you will not be judged.** "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? "**You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.**"

Jesus didn't say not to use judgment -> but to judge with the right intent

Some might say, "DON'T JUDGE ME!!!" -> **Should we not use the Spirit's direction to call people out?**

**Judge in order to seek the best for someone** -> not to proclaim superiority over them

Paul outlined this for the Colossian believers:

### **Colossians 3:12-17**

**"So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.**

14 Beyond all these things **put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity**. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. **Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another** with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

**The Jews needed not to judge just for appearances sake, but for ultimate righteousness of those they call out**

We need to do the same -> **admonish – "to place in mind"** -> **judge with a holy and loving purpose**

**Hypocrites judge for their own purposes, not for God's purposes**

The common people are confused about the rulers' actions, though

### **Confusion Reigns**

#### **John 7:25-27**

"So, some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, **"Is this not the man whom they are seeking to kill?"** "Look, He is speaking publicly, and they are saying nothing to Him. The rulers do not really know that this is the Christ, do they? "However, we know where this man is from; but whenever the Christ may come, no one knows where He is from."

Jesus is obviously confronting the Pharisees and Priests:

So, some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, **"Is this not the man whom they are seeking to kill?"** "Look, He is speaking publicly, and they are saying nothing to Him.

The people recognize that the leaders are trying to kill Jesus

But no one is taking Him away even though He is speaking openly in public

The commoners think there's something suspicious about these circumstances

"The rulers do not really know that this is the Christ, do they?"

**Perhaps, the leaders know Jesus is the Christ and they're keeping it on the down-low?**

"However, we know where this man is from; but whenever the Christ may come, no one knows where He is from."

They knew Jesus's history, growing up in Nazareth

But they were mostly uneducated

They didn't know that the Christ's birth location was specifically mentioned in prophecy:

### **Micah 5:2**

"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

Many people today are confused about Jesus

Some say He was a great teacher

Orthodox Jews believe He was a blasphemer that they had to put to death

They are still waiting for their Messiah

We know Him as the true Messiah

I wonder how many of our family members or neighbors are confused about Jesus

Jesus recognizes that the people know about His earthly life:

### **The Heavenly Home**

#### **John 7:28-29**

"Then Jesus cried out **in the temple**, teaching and saying, "**You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. "I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me."**

What the common people didn't know is that Jesus came from God the Father

"I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. "I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me."

That God the Father sent Jesus to Earth on a mission to save the world (**John 3:16-17**)

The leaders, however, did here directly from Jesus about His heavenly origin

They just didn't want to believe it

### **Powerless Leaders**

#### **John 7:30**

"So, they were seeking to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because **His hour had not yet come."**

The leaders were powerless to seize Jesus

They had no ability to reign Him in because the Father is the one controlling the timeline

Hypocrites are just as powerless to serve God effectively

We must strive to focus on the truth: to teach it AND to live it out as true disciples of Jesus

### **Prayer**

### **Benediction**