

“The Gospel of John: Who Is This Guy?”

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Scripture

John 7:40-52

“Some of the people therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, **“This certainly is the Prophet.”** Others were saying, **“This is the Christ.”** Still others were saying, **“Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He?”** “Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?”

So a **division occurred** in the crowd because of Him. Some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, “Why did you not bring Him?” The officers answered, “Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks.”

The Pharisees then answered them, “You have not also been led astray, have you? “No one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he? “But this crowd which does not know the Law is accursed.”

Nicodemus (he who came to Him before, being one of them) said to them, **“Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?”** They answered him, **“You are not also from Galilee, are you? Search, and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee.”**

Living Water

Last week -> We talked about “living water” -> **those who come to Him will have living water flow out of them**

This week -> **It's a hung jury!**

The crowd is still divided over Jesus, **years into His earthly ministry**

We often try to box people in, **define them in our eyes**, settle them into a framework

They're tall or short, thin or husky, loud or quiet

They're a Democrat or Republican

They're a believer or a heathen

They're honest or deceitful

They're a business owner or a worker

They're a good worker or a lazy one

They're a good guy or a bad guy

What about Jesus?

If you ask people: "Who is Jesus?" you get some interesting responses:

- To a Mormon, Jesus was the first created being, born to a heavenly Father and heavenly Mother
- To a Jehovah Witness, Jesus was a created angel, not divine nor part of the Trinity
- To a Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist, Jesus was a good and spiritual teacher -> "a guru"
- To the Orthodox Jew, Jesus was a blasphemer and criminal and was put to death for His crimes
- To some who call themselves "Christians", Jesus was only an excellent moral example

Question -> Who is This Guy?

In our passage today, the crowd had a set of diverse beliefs about Jesus

The crowd is the jury in our court room scene in the Gospel of John

What say you, crowd?

John 7:40-42

"Some of the people therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, **"This certainly is the Prophet."** Others were saying, **"This is the Christ."** Still others were saying, "Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He? "Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?"

Some said He was the Prophet – The enlightened individuals -> the "called"

Deuteronomy 18:15

"The LORD your **God will raise up for you a prophet like me** from among you, from your countrymen, **you shall listen to him.**"

The Prophet was promised from long ages ago to come and instruct the people

Peter quoted Deuteronomy in his sermon in Acts:

Acts 3:17-23

"And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. **"But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.** "Therefore, repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. **"Moses said, THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you. And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people."**

Peter applies the Deuteronomy passage to Jesus and then warns his audience:

If you don't listen to Jesus, you will be destroyed from among the people

If the people in John 7 called Jesus the Prophet, did they know they should listen to Him...or else?

Some said He was the Christ – **the chosen individuals**

Who called Jesus “the Christ” in the New Testament?

Matthew 16:15-17

“He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**” And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, **because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**”

Simeon was told he would see the Christ:

Luke 2:25-32

“There was a man in Jerusalem **whose name was Simeon**; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And **it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.** And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29“**Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation, Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel.**”

Demons knew Jesus was the Christ:

Luke 4:40-41

“All those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on each one of them, He was healing them. **Demons also were coming out of many, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But rebuking them, He would not allow them to speak, because they knew Him to be the Christ.**”

Interesting that demons have more knowledge than Muslims, Jehovah Witnesses, and Hindus

James writes that demons’ “shudder” at the thoughts of their future punishment

In the Triumphal Entry procession -> our Palm Sunday -> Jesus was called the Prophet and the Messiah King

“Still others were saying, “Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He?” Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and **from Bethlehem**, the village where David was”

Many people question Jesus today -> the skeptical individuals

In **Micah 5:2**, **Micah** prophesied that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem

But they knew Jesus to be from Nazareth, which didn’t make sense how He could be the Anointed Messiah

“Come on, this life is all there is -> just have a party like we are!”

2 Peter 3:3-4

“Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, “**Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.**”

"There are a lot of ways to get to Heaven"

"How arrogant Jesus was to say He was the ONLY WAY TO GOD!"

John 14:6 -> "I am the Way, Truth, and the Life"

"Why do I need Jesus? -> Everything is going well for me!"

Hebrews 9:27 -> "it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment"

"A virgin birth? Really? -> "It's a story" -> "It's a myth!"

Isaiah 7:14

"Therefore, **the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.** "He will eat curds and honey at the time He knows enough to refuse evil and choose good."

Isaiah prophesied it to be true 600 years before Jesus was born -> many other prophesies about the Messiah

Division

John 7:43-44

"So, **a division occurred in the crowd because of Him.** Some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him."

Jesus caused division -> some heated discussions about Him

Some wanted to haul Him in as a deceiver, others believed He was the Christ

Was this prophesied to be true of Jesus? Would He cause division?

Who said this?

Luke 12:51

"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? **I tell you, Nay; but rather division**"

Jesus!

Matthew expounds on this more:

Matthew 10:34-39

"Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.

37"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. "He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it."

You think Jesus is serious about commitment to Him?

Matthew 12:30 -> "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."

Jesus is the **Most Loved Man** to have ever lived!

Jesus is the **Most Hated Man** to have ever lived!

I asked a guy once, "What is keeping you from coming to the Lord?"

Whatever it is, whatever comes to mind, it is probably not of God but of the Enemy!

1 John 2:15-17

"Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever."

At the end of your life, there is only a single question to be asked and answered:

"What did you do with Jesus?"

Wonder

John 7:45-46

"The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" The officers answered, "Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks."

The temple police are told to seize Jesus -> they have religious training as Levites

They go to get Him but are mesmerized by His words -> **the curious individuals**

Jesus spoke with Authority!

Matthew 7:28-29

"When Jesus had finished these words, **the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority**, and not as their scribes."

The leaders were afraid of Jesus:

Mark 11:15-18

"Then they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves; and He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple. And **He began to teach** and say to them, "Is it not written, MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS? But you have made it a ROBBERS' DEN." **The chief priests and the scribes heard this and began seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching.**"

Authoritative teaching -> something they had not heard before -> **astonishment and wonder resulted**

When you don't understand the Scriptures or you have been sitting under bad teaching, and a Teacher arrives

The Pharisees questioned the intelligence of the temple police and the crowd:

Derision

John 7:47-49

"The Pharisees then answered them, **"You have not also been led astray, have you?"** "No one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he? **"But this crowd which does not know the Law is accursed."**

"Look, we haven't been FOOLED by this guy!" -> **the hardened individuals**

"Are you as dumb as the crowd is?"

"Those guys wouldn't know a good teacher if one sat on them!"

"I can't believe that YOU BELIEVE THIS GUY!"

How many of you have been ridiculed because of your faith in Jesus?

How many have thought you to be dumb, stupid, or simply uneducated for your faith in the Lord?

The Pharisees thought the people were the same way -> idiots believing in a charlatan

They actually said the people were cursed -> damned by God -> if they believed in Jesus

Not every Pharisee was that way, however:

Repentance

John 7:50-52

"Nicodemus (he who came to Him before, being one of them) said to them, **"Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?"**

They answered him, "You are not also from Galilee, are you? **Search, and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee."**

Nicodemus begins to show some faith in Jesus -> **the repentant individuals**

His 1:1 time with Jesus seemed to have produced some fruit

While he does not state his belief in Jesus, he says that Jesus deserves due process

Something the other Pharisees were not willing to give Jesus

John 19:39

"Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a **hundred pounds weight."**

It shows us that God draw anyone, even the most hardened Pharisee, into a believer -> **No man comes unless**

We see Nicodemus has been changed by God to believe in Jesus -> pounds of myrrh and aloes!

Who is Jesus to You?

Prayer & Benediction