

JOHN 7:25-26 *Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill?" ²⁶ And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ?*

Confusion, Contempt, or Confession. These three words aptly describe the response of the people to Jesus' presence, whether in Galilee, Judea, or Jerusalem.

- **As for the general public**, there was **"Confusion."** They had seen His miracles. They had heard His teaching. Yet their acceptance of Jesus as "The Christ – The Son of God" - wavered due to the attitude of the Jewish Leaders.
- **As for the Jewish Leaders**, there was **"Contempt."** From the beginning of His ministry there was suspicion and ridicule: Where did He get the authority to speak; His miracles and healings were not real; He could not be who he said He was; He must be silenced; He must be killed.
- **As for those who had received from Him**, there was **"Confession."** Time and again, those who had received from Him confessed He was from God; that He was the Messiah; that He was God.

Our culture continues with these same responses. Those who do not believe do all they can to discredit His miracles; recast Him in their own image; or challenge the truth of His words that don't fit their agenda. The Apostle John wanted people to be able to answer the question, **"Is this the Christ?"**

NOT EVEN HIS BROTHERS: CONFUSION LEADING TO INTIMIDATION

JOHN 7:1-9 *After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.*

- Events in **JOHN 7:1 - 10:21** all took place in Jerusalem surrounding the time of the **FEAST OF TABERNACLES (Booths)**
- This was **6 Months** after the confrontation with the Jews in **JOHN 5 & 6**
- ² **Now the Jews' FEAST OF TABERNACLES (Booths) was at hand**
 - The **FEAST OF TABERNACLES** followed **THE DAY OF ATONEMENT**: A type of God's final Judgement of Sin and the Eve of the **MILLENNIUM**...
 - 8 Days of Celebration dwelling in tents following the Harvest – It was to remember the **FIRST HARVEST** after entering the Promised Land and dwelling with God – A Type of the **MILLENNIUM**...

³ *So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, **that your disciples also may see the works you are doing.**"* ⁴ *For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, **show yourself to the world.**"*

- **Leave here...** – a command to be responded to... – This was not a suggestion or an idea that they had... – **They WANTED him to leave... and demanded it**
- **IF you [are doing] these things...** – [PresAct] **"IF [and maybe you are, maybe not] you are doing these [miracles / teachings]**
- They were uncertain of His motive and His purpose... **"We don't know why you are doing this?"**
- **"Show them to the world..."** – Do them **somewhere else... this isn't a good place** – It was a threat to the **reputation / social standing** of the family... and Mary was included in the group...

⁵ For not even his brothers believed in him.

- They acknowledged that they "saw the miracles" ... But they didn't believe they were the result of "their Elder brother" being the "ANOINTED ONE – MESSIAH / CHRIST"
- Believed... – "had NOT arrived at a settled place of believing" – they considered it... thought about it.. but had not placed their faith in the fact that Jesus was "THE SON OF GOD"
- Consider the other testimonies recorded in MARK (Peter's "eye-witness" account)

MARK 3:21 And when his family heard it, they went out to seize [take Him away – even if by force] him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

MARK 3:31-33 And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. ³² And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you."

³³ And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" -They were not the ones He was sent to seek...

- There are times when Believers become "Timid... Fearful... Ashamed... even Embarrassed" to proclaim / stand-by / support the "hard sayings" of Jesus and the Word of God...

2 TIM 1:7 "...for God [has not given] us a spirit [the nature] of fear ("Deilia" - Cowardice – timidity – fear to respond to a needed situation) but of power and love and self-control.

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed (Aischung - to turn the face seeing nothing good and having no hope for change) - of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God...

ROMANS 1:18 "For I am not ashamed (Aischung) of the GOSPEL, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

ACTS 4:31 "And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the Word of God with boldness." – After Peter and John had been released from prison

ACTS 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses

- The "family" was right in that they had witnessed the rejection and the ridicule Jesus had received... and it probably was directed at them a well
AND they (rightly) assumed that it would increase... even to the point of violence...
- Jesus told His followers it would happen to them... Because of Him...
- It had happened to the Prophets of the OT... and to those who held fast to the God's Word

⁶ Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. ⁷ The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. ⁸ You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come." ⁹ After saying this, he remained in Galilee.

- Jesus knew exactly "when" He was to act / speak... He ONLY did those things His Father had Shown Him... Given Him to say...

- *My **time** has not yet fully come... – “**Kairos**” – a specific time / set time / appointed time – in reference to Offering Himself to the “control” of the Jewish Leaders...
“**Chronos**” – more in application to a “**Season**” – a non-specific time, but one that WILL come*

FOR FEAR OF THE JEWS: CONFUSION LEADING TO QUESTIONS

JOHN 7:10-13 *But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private.*

- *I **will not go up** (at this time...) -*
- *He also **went up**... -*
- *- Privately... NOT Publicly – This is in reference to His going into Jerusalem... Once He was there, He proceeded to the Temple where He began to engage the crowd...*
- ¹¹ *The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, “Where is he?” ¹² And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, “He is a good man,” others said, “No, he is leading the people astray.”*
- *Looking for Him... – This is NOT seeking as in desiring or expecting something from Him – They were ‘Zealously searching’ to confront and get answers*
 - *“Where is He...” – Some of these may have been the curious crowd who had heard of the miracles He had performed... Others were the Leaders who wanted to challenge Him so as to embarrass Him before the crowd... and cause Him to be “discounted” in their eyes...*
 - *“Muttering / Murmuring...” – There was open discussion circulated amongst the people by those who were interested in hearing Him... and those who wanted to openly criticize Him*
- *“He is a good man...” – “**Agathos** – good in essence” - even if you didn’t believe what He said...*
- *“He is Leading the People Astray: -[**Planes**] - He is “**just plain wrong**... purposely deceiving”*

¹³ *Yet for **fear** [**Phobos**] of the Jews no one spoke openly of him... “To speak in the open... uninhibited”*

MY TEACHING IS FROM GOD

JOHN 7:14-19 *About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. ¹⁵ The Jews therefore marveled, saying, “How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?” ¹⁶ So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but His who sent me.”*

¹⁷ *If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. ¹⁸ The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.*

ACTS 20:29-30 *“I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and **from among your own selves** will arise men **speaking twisted things**, to **draw away the disciples after them**...”*

- *“If anyone’s will is to do God’s will...” – The right heart attitude is necessary to gain the insight from the Word of God –*
- *False teachers / the arrogant self-seeking do not have the proper understanding because their hearts are not right... **They seek the “Praise of man”***

CONFUSION... CONTEMPT... CONFESSION: "WHERE DO YOU STAND?"

The people were still divided... What Jesus said was indeed different than what they had heard from the Jewish Leaders: *It was either thrilling; Or unsettling... there seemed no middle ground*

Continuing Confusion

JOHN 7:25-31 *Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill?" ²⁶ And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ? ²⁷ But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from."*

- *They seek to Kill him... Yet He speaks openly* – There was definitely “defiance” in Jesus Teaching: He KNEW it would be controversial... BUT it needed to be said
- *"Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ?"* NO, They did not... Because they did NOT want to know – *Belief PROCEEDS knowledge...*
YET some of the people are expressing an increasing conviction in *"Who Jesus Was..."*

²⁸ *So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know." ²⁹ I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me."*

- This is an echo of what Jesus had proclaimed after the healing of the man at Bethesda...
- The truth of Jesus words were confirmed by John the Baptist, The Law of Moses, and the Miracles He performed...
- IF you knew Him you would believe... BUT you don't know Him, so you can't believe Me...

Escalating Contempt

³⁰ *So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.* [see on vs 1]

- *Seeking to arrest Him* -They actually had decided they would need to kill Him although the exact plot was not yet arranged [see vs 1 and vs 19] Also: JOHN 5:18; 8:37, 40; 11:53

Persuasion Leading to Confession

³¹ ***YET** many of the people believed in Him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?" [Could that even be possible?]*

MATT 12:23 *And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" [MESSIAH]*