

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

GFT-17 “IS THIS THE CHRIST? PT2”

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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?*

From the beginning of Jesus’ Ministry, there was great recognition among the people that, “**nobody taught like Him.**” Most of the general public, although sometimes confused, liked what He said, and how He said it. At times, great masses were drawn together, just to hear His words.

The Jewish Leaders hated it. His insight into truth was greater than theirs; His manner of teaching was superior to theirs; the people’s interest in what He said was greater than what they received. The Leaders were left with challenging His authority to speak at all. He DID NOT have their approval. So it is in much of our culture today. It is often the “**approved authorities**” that have condemned and challenged Jesus’ Words. We are often left with the necessity to “*unteach*” before we can present the Truth. **Just the same as Jesus!**

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.”*

MARK 1:21-22 *And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching.²² And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.*

vs 27) And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”

ACTS 4:13 *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated [in the Rabbinical Schools], common [idiotes – of a lower class] men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*

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.*

➤ “If anyone’s will is to do God’s will... he will know...” – The right heart attitude is necessary to gain the insight from the Word of God –

- Jesus’ authority came from God – whether the PEOPLE believed it or NOT...
- In order to receive the “truth” from what He was teaching, they would need to “BELIEVE”

JOHN 12:49-50 *For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is ETERNAL LIFE. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”*

JOHN 14:24 *Whoever does not love me does not keep [to guard over so as to not lose] my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.*

JOHN 6:45 [Isa 54:13] *"It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me..."*

HEB 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

- *"The one who speaks on his own authority... seeks his own glory..."*

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.*

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...

The people were still divided... What Jesus said was indeed different than what they had been hearing from the Jewish Leaders:

- *It was either thrilling; Or unsettling... there seemed no middle ground*
- The people were easily being swayed by the Jewish Leaders ... *especially because of the threat of being forbidden to enter the Synagogues and the Temple*

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 (actually) be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ?"*

- *They seek to Kill him... Yet He speaks openly* – There was definitely "defiance" against the teaching of the Leaders contained in Jesus Teaching: He KNEW what He said 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 PRECEEDS knowledge...*
JOHN 11:40 *Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you BELIEVED ... you would SEE the glory of God?"*
 - Their "FEAR" was that *IF he was THE CHRIST*, and *IF His words were from God...* much of what they had been saying was wrong...
 - Therefore, their opposition / contempt was that *"the PEOPLE would believe Him..."*
- YET some of the people are expressing an increasing conviction in *"Who Jesus Was..."*

The people were asking questions among themselves and trying to match what they had heard and believed from their Leaders to WHAT they were Seeing and Hearing from Jesus...

So, now the questions become "superficial / side issues"

²⁷ *But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from."*

- *WE Know...* – They thought they knew ALL that was needed. What they knew was "incomplete"
 - *Raised in Nazareth... Born in Bethlehem* [2 SAM; ISA 11:1; MIC 5:2; MATT 1:1-17; LK 3:23-38; ROM 1:3; MATT 2:1-6]

- **NO One knows...** – A common belief of the people, but had no support from OT Prophets... - People often think they know what the Scripture says and profess it... **but it is NOT the Truth**

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.”**

- **“Proclaimed... – Speaking with a “loud and distinct voice”** – Jesus was clearly wanting everyone possible to hear Him... **He would not be constrained to a closed discussion with a few...**
- 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**...

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 plan was not yet arranged [see **vs 1** and **vs 19** Also: **JOHN 5:18; 8:37, 40; 11:53**]
- **“...but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come”** – There was an **“appointed time”**- and no action, plan, or scheme of man [Satan] could / would change that!

Persuasion and 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?” [Is it even possible that He could be doing more than THIS man?]**

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

○ Time and again the Disciples, the Crowds, and even some of the Leaders were **“amazed”**

JOHN 7:37-39 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, **“If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.”** ³⁸ **Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”** ³⁹ **Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

JOHN 7:40-43 When they heard these words, some of the people said, **“This really is the Prophet.”**

⁴¹ **Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Is the Christ to come from Galilee?”** ⁴² **Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?”** ⁴³ **So there was a division among the people over him.**

- **“The PROPHET”** – **DEUT 18:15** and **18**
- **“The CHRIST”** – The expected **“MESSIAH”** ... **BUT NOT** as they had expected Him!

And, with that, we’re back to the **“superficial” distracting questions** – [See above at **verse 27**]

⁴⁴ **Some of them [Jewish Leaders] wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.**

As Jesus’ ministry progressed toward the Cross, the distinctions became more sharp:

JOHN 9:16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was division...

JOHN 10:19-21 There was again a division among the Jews because of these words.²⁰ Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?”²¹ Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

It is another common issue today... the more we emphasize ‘The Cross; Death; and Resurrection’ the more division there will be. His “Love” is fine... His “Death” is NOT!

JOHN 7:45-52 The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why did you not bring him?”⁴⁶ The officers answered, “No one ever spoke like this man!”⁴⁷ The Pharisees answered them, “Have you also been deceived?”⁴⁸ Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him?”

- **The Officers...** – These were an order of the Levites who were originally appointed to “Guard the way into Temple” [The Doorkeepers]. They had now become instruments of the Sanhedrin ... enforcing their rules and decisions regarding the “policies” they had instituted -
- **Why...?** – The Leaders could not believe that they had not brought Him to them... They wanted to get Jesus away from the crowds into a “closed location” where their judgements and accusations would not be refuted by the witness of the people who had been taught, healed, delivered, seen the miracles...

⁴⁹ “But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.”

- **The “people” do NOT know the Law...** WHY? The Leaders were not teaching The Law, but their own “interpretations and applications OF The Law...
- **Therefore... They are cursed!**
Deut 28:15 But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.

The “curse” is for “BREAKING” the Law... not for “NOT KNOWING” it...

⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them,⁵¹ “Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?”

Well-Illustrated Below: JOHN 7:53-8:11

⁵² They replied, “Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee.”

The question of “Galilee” resurfaces... It gets them away from dealing with the “**REAL**” issues

- His Teaching...
- His Authority...
- His Identity...