

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

GFT-18 “IS THIS THE CHRIST? PT3”

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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 yet, they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ?”*

Questions, questions, questions. In our study through this section of **JOHN'S GOSPEL**, we have seen that the declarations, statements, and teachings of Jesus were met with questions. The people were asking questions among themselves and trying to match the answers Jesus gave to what they had heard and believed from their Leaders.

The answers were not as they had expected. And many of the answers were confusing, for as Jesus had said they were only understood by those who would “do” the Father’s will. (verse 17)

So, now their questions start to become more “*superficial / side issues*” It is not that these issues are not important, but they do not help the people understand the “mission” of THE MESSIAH / THE CHRIST.

It is so easy for our conversations with the unbelievers, or the confused, to become side-tracked. While our desire is “*to speak the truth in love*”, the enemy’s desire is to “*blind the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ.*” Their Irrelevant questions and derogatory comments need to be answered in a direct, yet, humble manner.

Confused By Misinformation

JOHN 7:27 *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... JOHN 1:45 *Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses, in the Law, and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” [MATT 2:23; 4:13; MARK 1:9; LUKE 1:26; 2:39; 4:16; JOHN 1:45; ACTS 3:6; 10:38]*
 - Born in Bethlehem... MATT 2:5-6 [The Wise Men] *told [Herod], “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the Prophet: “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” [2 SAM; ISA 11:1; MIC 5:2; MATT 1:1-17; MATT 2:1-6; LK 3:23-38; ROM1:3]*
 - NO One knows... – This was a common belief of the people (*probably as instructed by the Jewish Leaders*) , but as the Scriptures above confirm, it had been clearly foretold...
People often think they know what the Scripture says, and they will openly profess it...
But what they know is NOT the Full 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...
He also wanted the Leaders who were standing at a distance to Him to hear His words

- You know me, and you know where I come from...
 - Jesus returns the discussion to the “heart of the matter” – Bethlehem / Nazareth are important to the confirmation of OT Prophecies, and proof of His lineage...
 - The REAL issue is “HE CAME FROM THE FATHER and spoke the WORDS SENT FROM THE FATHER” – *which they have not been able yet to understand and believe...*
 - 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 MIRACLES HE PERFORMED The SCRIPTURES, and The LAW OF MOSES... [JOHN5:33; 36; 39; 46-47]
- “IF you knew HIM, you would believe ME... BUT you don't know HIM... so you can't believe ME”
- I came from HIM [GOD]... – Another open declaration of His Deity and Humanity...
 - They knew that for Jesus to say “He came from God” was to profess that He WAS God...
 - Born in Bethlehem... Raised in Nazareth - Jesus grew-up before their eyes... He was MAN

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 had decided they would need to kill Him previously, although the exact plan had not yet been 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” 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 and more distinct:

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?"*

The more we emphasize "The Cross; the Death; and the Resurrection" the more division there will be. His "Love" they can "manipulate" into a way to deal with... His "Death" they CANNOT!

1 COR 1:18-21 [NLT] The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. ¹⁹ As the Scriptures say, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent." ²⁰ So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. ²¹ Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.

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... – 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 ... NOT GOD'S LAW*

➤ *Why...? – The Leaders could not believe that they had not brought Jesus to them... They wanted to get Him 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...*

○ Often those who want to challenge the Gospel do so "Privately" so they are not under the scrutiny of those who would side with the Truth... *they don't want their objections known*
1 PET 3:15 *"...but in your hearts honor CHRIST THE LORD as Holy, always being prepared to make a defense [Apologia] to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"*

○ At other times, those who are antagonists to the message present their challenges and false teachings in an "Open setting" – they want to have the greatest effect on the ones who are listening... potentially so as to confuse them and lead them astray

2 TIM 2:14 *Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.*

See also: 1 TIM 6:4; TITUS 3:9

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. They teach their own “interpretations” and applications OF The Law...

Hear their disdain for the people... They were “ignorant / uneducated” – JUST LIKE JESUS!

- Therefore... (in the eyes of the Leaders) 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...

The “curse” is NOT for “NOT KNOWING” THE LAW...

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 Leaders do not acknowledge the question, but deflect the issue to something else...
- They “resurrect” the question of “Galilee” ... It gets the Leaders away from dealing with the “REAL” issues:

- JESUS’ Teaching... “What the Father has given Him to say

- JESUS’ Authority... “He was sent from the Father with THIS message

- JESUS’ Identity... “He and the Father are ONE” – HE is the SON sent from Heaven

Quotations Regarding “EXvangelicalism ... DEconversion”:

Near the end of the memoir, as the author discusses an experience of feeling lonely, she writes:

“Because my therapist is NOW the narrator of my inside voice, I am wondering if I might consider this feeling a tiny victory”.

That’s a revealing statement: Her therapist is the narrator of her inside voice. [NOT the Holy Spirit]

Our culture is increasingly embracing therapy, not as something like medicine for the sick but as a guiding perspective on life akin to religion. As one researcher has recognized:

“Therapy has become the new confession, self-affirming mantras have replaced prayers, communities with the same diagnosis have supplanted church groups, and self-actualization has taken the place of salvation.”

Indeed, the way the author ultimately articulates her “awakening” at the end of the book illustrates the point:

The one who will never quit is me. The one who will never lie to me is me. The one who will always love me is me. The one who will always protect me is me. The one who will always choose me is me.

Notice that every statement is a version of “The one...is me,” and almost every claim is something that is ultimately only true of God. Processing her life-altering experience through the lens of secular therapy brings her to the conclusion that “SHE is her own savior”.

Why does she need saving? It’s NOT because she’s a sinner in need of forgiveness but because of how others have wronged HER.