

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

GFT-19 “I KNOW HIM ... You Do Not”

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John 8:55 “But you have not known HIM. I know HIM. If I were to say that I do not know HIM, I would be a liar like you, but I do know HIM and I keep HIS WORD.”

Since the beginning of John 7, Jesus has been engaged with the crowds in Jerusalem at the time of the **Feast of Tabernacles**. Some of His dialogue was with the inquisitive citizens, and some of it was with the contentious Jewish Leaders. The subject centered around **WHO** Jesus was, **WHERE** He came from, and **WHAT** gave him the authority to speak. *IF He truly was the Son of God, the One who came from Heaven by the Father's command, THEN what He was saying WAS absolute truth... and must be accepted.*

As we continue into John 8, the confrontation becomes directly involved with the Leaders and those who support them. In this Chapter Jesus continually asserts His Deity and His Humanity.

Here again we see the conflict of our current culture. The “masses” are often confused by their lack of understanding. Many are untaught, or mistaught, and are adamant in what they “think” is the truth. Most often... it is not.

“You’re really not in any meaningful sense a Christian” Christopher Hitchens:

THE CHALLENGE OF NICODEMUS

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?”*

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...
- IF Nicodemus [or anyone else] does not accept THEIR position they must be Ignorant and Unauthorized to speak]
- They “resurrect” the question of “Galilee” ... It gets them 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.

JOHN 8:12-59 "I KNOW HIM ... YOU DO NOT"

JOHN 8 is a running confrontation of Jesus with the Jewish Leaders (*esp. Pharisees*). While they move from one challenge to the next, Jesus responds directly to the "heart" of their question / accusation... consistently establishing His authority to speak as the Son of God and the Messiah.

HE is the one sent from the Father; HE is the one who speaks the True Words of God; HE is the one who knows the Father; HE is the one who was from the beginning; HE IS YAHWEH.

18 times in this Chapter Jesus confirms that He is God [Deity] and Man [Humanity].

8:12-20 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, **"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the LIGHT of LIFE."**

1 JN 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

JN 1:9 The **True Light**, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

JN 12:46 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, **"You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true."**

¹⁴ Jesus answered, **"Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going."**

¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, **my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.**

¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸ **I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me."**

JN 5:33; 36; 39; 46

¹⁹ They said to him therefore, **"Where is your Father?"** Jesus answered, **"You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also."**

²⁰ These words He spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested Him, because His hour had not yet come.

8:21-30 So He said to them again, **"I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come."** ²² So the Jews said, **"Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come?'"**

- "You will die in your sin..." – Because they only see Jesus as a man, they will never find Eternal Life
- Heaven is ONLY gained by Believing in Jesus the Christ...

²³ He said to them, **"You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world."**

- From the earth... Only "New Birth" will allow them to transition from Earth to Heaven

²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins, for **unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."**

- Here is the classic statement that the "world" is NOT willing to accept...
- Only when people can recognize their "sin" can they receive Eternal Life

²⁵ So they said to Him, “Who are you?” Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. ²⁶ I have much to say about you and much to judge, but HE who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from Him.” ²⁷ They did not understand that He had been speaking to them about the Father.

- Jesus has told them time and again WHO He is... they will not Listen ... SO they will not Hear...
- There is much Jesus could say, but He will ONLY say what His Father has given Him to say (judge)
- The one who sent Him was The Father... Recognition of the “true God” was far from them...

²⁸ So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. ²⁹ And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”

- ONLY after will they see that HE is The Messiah... IF they will believe
- His Teaching... His Works... His Death and Resurrection are all according to the Father’s purpose...
- HE was “obedient unto death... on a Cross”

³⁰ As He was saying these things, many [in the crowd] believed in Him.

8:31-38 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

- Within the larger crowd were not only Pharisees, but also SOME who believed...
- This promise of “freedom” would only be available to those who believed...
- The Disciple... is the one who abides in His Word... they will know the Truth... that Truth will set them free...

³³ They answered Him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’”

- Their blindness does not allow them to see their bondage and slavery to the “power of sin and death” ... which the doctrines of man CANNOT overcome...

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

- As Abraham’s sons they must consider which son they are: [See Gal 3:16; 26; Heb 3:6]
 - Ishmael – did not remain in the house...
 - Isaac - did remain in the house...

³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you.

³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

8:39-47 They answered Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, ⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.

- The works Abraham did... He Believed the Voice of God... The Promise of God...
- You have heard and DO NOT Believe...

⁴¹ “You are doing the works YOUR father did.”

- Obviously, Jesus is not talking about Abraham...

They said to Him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but He sent me."

⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.

➤ They don't understand because they don't like what Jesus is saying...

⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires.

He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.

➤ They willingly listen to the lies of "The Devil" but refuse to hear the Words of the Son sent from God

⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?

⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

8:48-59 The Jews answered Him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

⁴⁹ Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me."

⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and He is the judge. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."

⁵² The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.'

⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?"

⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.'

⁵⁵ But you have not known Him. I KNOW Him. If I were to say that I do not know Him, I would be a liar like you... but I DO KNOW Him and I keep His word.

⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad."

GAL 3:8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed."

GEN 15:4-6

⁵⁷ So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?"

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

The Hitchens Interview: (from THE PORTLAND MONTHLY, January 2010)

Author of, **GOD IS NOT GREAT...How Religion Poisons Everything**

Marilyn Sewell: The religion you cite in your book is generally the fundamentalist faith of various kinds. I'm a liberal Christian, and I don't take the stories from the scripture literally. [I don't believe in the doctrine of atonement \(that Jesus died for our sins, for example\)](#). Do you make any distinction between fundamentalist faith and liberal religion?

Christopher Hitchens: I would say that if you don't believe that JESUS of Nazareth was the CHRIST and MESSIAH, and that he rose again from the dead and by his sacrifice sins are forgiven, **you're really not in any meaningful sense a Christian**.

<http://www.portlandmonthlymag.com/arts-and-entertainment/category/books-and-talks/articles/christopher-hitchens/#>