

The Gospel of John

Embracing the Claims of Jesus

John 7:14-24

INTRODUCTION:

The wonderful experience of going through the Gospel of John is that it's all about Christ in every page and virtually every verse. And you can't improve upon the subject by any means. So what a delight, again, to spend time in God's Word.

All Stand and Read Scripture.

John 7:14-24 (NASB)

¹⁴ But when it was now the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and *began* to teach. ¹⁵ The Jews then were astonished, saying, "How has this man become learned, having never been educated?" ¹⁶ So Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. ¹⁷ If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or *whether* I speak from Myself. ¹⁸ He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

¹⁹ "Did not Moses give you the Law, and *yet* none of you carries out the Law? Why do you seek to kill Me?" ²⁰ The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who seeks to kill You?" ²¹ Jesus answered them, "I did one deed, and you all marvel. ²² For this reason Moses has given you circumcision (not because it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and on *the* Sabbath you circumcise a man. ²³ If a man receives circumcision on *the* Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on *the* Sabbath? ²⁴ Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

Prayer

The claims of Jesus were astonishing. They were shocking. They were beyond bold. They were really outrageous claims. The man Jesus was indistinguishable from any other Galilean man. He most likely had a Galilean accent and his deity was completely invisible. What was visible was his humanity. There was no way to see him any different than you would see any other man. But men do not make the claims that he made.

Jesus said that he had come down from heaven, that He had eternally existed, that He had been sent into the world by the Father. He claimed to be without sin. He claimed to be the Son of God. He claimed to be the only savior of the world. He claimed to be the judge of everyone's eternal destiny. He claimed to be the only source of everlasting life. He claimed to be the only way to God.

He claimed to have the power to give life and even to raise the dead. He claimed to be able to raise **himself** from the dead. He claimed to be the Messiah of the Old Testament. He claimed to have all authority in heaven and earth. And many, many others.

This from a man who was physically, by appearance, indistinguishable from any other Galilean man. These claims were just beyond comprehension. The Jewish leaders judged him as being the most extreme form of blasphemy conceivable. He was, in their eyes, the ultimate blasphemer.

Remember from last time? He did not go to the Feast of Tabernacles with the others. He waited for God's timing in the middle of the week because He knew the Jewish leaders wanted to kill him.

You remember he took a secret journey through Samaria? At the right moment, he walks into the Temple and begins teaching.

So he sets up class and he starts teaching in the middle of the week of the Feast in the temple courtyard. And in the unfolding passage, he **provides five reasons to believe his claims**

The **first reason** to believe the claims of Jesus is...

BODY:

I. THE DIVINE SOURCE OF HIS TEACHING.

John 7:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ But when it was now the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and *began to teach.*

Every day there were lots of rabbis teaching all over the temple. They found their place and began to teach. And in order to give authority to what they said, they quoted other rabbis. This had the effect of validating what they said, so that people wouldn't think they invented it. And secondly, it kept them in the tradition.

But that is **not** how Jesus did His teachings and claims.

John 7:15a (NASB)

¹⁵ The Jews then were astonished, saying, "How has this man become learned,

They acknowledged his learning. It was beyond anybody else. Even the temple police, who regularly would have heard the teaching of rabbis, said they never heard anybody like this. Never a man spoke like this man.

They're overwhelmed by His words. So how are they going to discredit him? They knew every time they would enter into a discussion or a debate or a confrontation with him, they were just **humiliated**. So they began grasping at straws.

John 7:15b (NASB)

¹⁵...having never been educated?"

They didn't want to argue with him. They didn't want to debate him. So they tried to **discredit** Him by calling into question his training or **lack of training**.

John 7:16 (NASB)

16 So Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me.

Wow!. "My teaching is not mine." This isn't self knowledge. I didn't make this stuff up. It comes from He who sent me. And there he trumps the rabbis. I'm not quoting rabbis. I'm quoting God. What a reply!

He knows the mind of God verbally in words. He speaks the **words** that God gives him to speak. He knows what God thinks and He knows what God wills.

He also has complete knowledge of the mind of man. He knew the mind of God and He knew the mind of man. He knew the Scripture, and therefore he knew the true interpretation of the Scripture. There was no rabbi that could match that!

This is supernatural knowledge! So that's where you have to start thinking about accepting the claims of Jesus. You start with his supernatural knowledge. This is **God** talking. When you read the Bible, it is like God is sitting behind the wall talking to you.

The **second reason** to believe the claims of Jesus is...

II. HIS DESIRE TO DO GOD'S WILL.

Everything that Jesus did was according to God's will.

What motivates someone to come to Christ and surrender to Him?

It might be that you want a better life or you want your sins forgiven. Those are good things. But here is the test that Jesus gives.

John 7:17 (NASB)

17 If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.

Can I make it simple? Coming to Christ is not motivated by your desire to get what you want. It is motivated by your desire to do God's will. To obey His commands. That is the drawing of the Father, as we learned about in **John 6**.

So if you want to know if Christ is Who He claims to be, **here's the test**. Do you have a genuine desire to carry out the revealed will of God in your life? Do you want to go through the narrow gate and walk the narrow way? That is the test.

Jeremiah 29:13 (NASB)

13 You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

The **third reason** to believe the claims of Jesus is...

III. HIS DESIRE TO SEEK ONLY THE GLORY OF GOD.

John 7:18 (NASB)

18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

The problem with these Pharisees and Jewish leaders was that they did not seek the glory of God. They sought glory from one another. **They were more interested in the praise of men than the praise of God.**

Again, He is going back to the fact that he is not speaking from himself, for his own glory.

How do you recognize a true teacher? Because he seeks only the glory of God. Jesus only sought the glory of God. This is part of this humiliation. He came down from the glories of heaven to live with mankind on earth and died on the cross for our salvation.

Who is the true Savior? He is the one who washes the dirty feet of his disciples. He is the one who came not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give His life. He is the one who bears other's burdens. He is the One who seeks no money, has no home, takes nothing, and gives everything. He is the One who gives all honor to God, not himself.

I challenge you to find another teacher or savior like that. False saviors seek personal gain and glorify themselves. The Jewish leaders called attention to themselves when they prayed, when they gave, and when they paraded around the city with their clothes.

Jesus was not like that. He who knew no sin. He was so humble that he became sin for us. He Who was without sin bore our sins in His own body on the tree that we, being dead to sin, might be made alive to righteousness.

No false savior will hang on the cross and say, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," when he is being executed.

The **fourth reason** to believe the claims of Jesus is...

IV. HIS DECLARATION OF MAN'S SINFULNESS.

John 7:19a (NASB)

19 "Did not Moses give you the Law, and yet none of you carries out the Law?" Stop there.

What a statement! Fully aware of the authority's desire to kill him, He uses the law of Moses as a starting point to pronounce judgment on them.

"Didn't Moses give you the Law?" Yes, of course Moses gave us the Law! They loved Moses. They thought they honored the Law. **"But none of you carries out the Law."** That is a universal statement of truth regarding the sinfulness of all mankind.

Romans 3:10 (NASB)

10 ..."There is none righteous, not even one;

Galatians 3 tells us that if you break one law, you've broken the whole Law and you're cursed. The Jewish leaders were lawbreakers. The Law of Moses was never intended to save. It was intended to condemn. It was intended to drive sinners to an overwhelming fear of divine judgment that would cause them to repent and to cry out for mercy and grace from God. And now, to put their trust in the only savior, Jesus Christ.

They would have been saying, "Whoa, whoa, whoa, what do you mean none of us carries

out the Law?" So he gets specific.

John 7:19b (NASB)

¹⁹ ...Why do you seek to kill Me?"

Their desire to murder Jesus was a violation of the Ten Commandments. **Thou shalt not what?** Murder! or Kill!

John 7:20 (NASB)

²⁰ The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who seeks to kill You?"

The crowd was not yet aware of this murderous intent to kill Jesus. They were not from Jerusalem. So they say, " **You have a demon! Who seeks to kill You?.**" Six months later when they all show up again for the Passover, they are all screaming for his blood. This was proof of their sinfulness. They were **not** law keepers. They were **lawbreakers** with murder on their minds.

V. HIS DEEDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Another reason to embrace his claims was **His deeds of righteousness**. Everything that He did was done in perfect righteousness. He had no sin. And Jesus chooses one example.

John 7:21 (NASB)

²¹ Jesus answered them, "I did one deed, and you all marvel.

Jesus is referring back to a miracle He performed in Jerusalem at another feast recorded at the beginning of chapter 5.

Do you remember what it was? He healed a lame man at the pool of Bethesda who had been lame for many years. And basically the Jews went out of their minds because he did it on the Sabbath and they condemned it. And it says they sought to kill him because he violated the Sabbath and claimed that God was his father.

So he goes back to that event as symbolic of his deeds. "**I did one deed and you all marvel.**" Nobody denied any of his miracles, certainly not that one. Everybody saw it. The leaders never denied it.

In order to demonstrate how wrong they are for rejecting the goodness of God on the Sabbath. He takes it a little further in verses 22-23.

John 7:22-23 (NASB)

²² For this reason Moses has given you circumcision (not because it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and on *the* Sabbath you circumcise a man. ²³ If a man receives circumcision on *the* Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on *the* Sabbath?

Let me help you understand the Sabbath in a way that you might not understand it. The covenant of circumcision started with Abraham in Genesis 17 and it was reiterated in the Mosaic Law, that all male children will be circumcised on the eighth day.

So Jesus says you have circumcision, right? Circumcision had to be done on the eighth day. So when the eighth day happened to be on a Sabbath, they did it on the eighth day. So in a sense, they violated their own tradition about work on the Sabbath, because they had a law that they needed to follow.

Then Jesus says, you circumcise on the Sabbath. If you perform circumcision on the Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken, then why are you angry with Me when I made an entire man well on the Sabbath?"

I did one miracle and the murder plot is hatched. One miracle and you want to kill me. The healing of the lame man was a greater expression of goodness and divine mercy than a circumcision on that Sabbath, and you want to kill me? You yourselves violate your own rules because you think circumcision is more important.

This is a powerful rebuke! Circumcision takes precedence over the restriction of Sabbath rest. And so does doing good, showing mercy, and sharing kindness. Jesus is revealing the hypocrisy of these leaders. They are ridiculing deeds of pure righteousness.

CONCLUSION:

John says these are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ.

The claims of Christ are validated by

- The divine source of His knowledge,
- His ability to do only God's will,
- His desire to seek only the glory of God,
- His righteous sentence on humanity as sinful,
- and His deeds of righteousness.

All of these examples are reasons to believe and embrace the claims of Jesus.

John 7:24 (NASB)

24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

They had spent their whole life judging on appearance. It's what hypocrites do. That's what they sell. That's what they produce. Jesus says, "**Stop doing that!**" Judge righteously.

That's a message to every person. There's no middle ground. You either **embrace** Jesus as Savior your Lord, or you don't. One promises heaven, the other promises eternal separation from God. There is no middle ground. There are many reasons to believe and that is where it has to start. There must be a desire in your heart to do the will of God!

Stop doing your own will. Stop doing the will of the world around you.

Develop a hunger that says, "I want, more than anything, to do the will of God! I want God as my master. I want Jesus Christ as my Lord. I want to exchange the ways of this world for blessings and eternal life. When you want to do the will of God, you will know the truth.

The Family of God.