



Sermon: Pastor Chris Centola

Message - No One Ever Spoke Like This Man

Sermon Big Picture - As Jesus has spoken to the crowds, His words cause division among the people and the religious leaders of Israel. Why is Jesus divisive? And what can we learn from how different people responded to His words?

Scripture: John 7:40-52

Examination

1. How do the claims of Jesus about Himself prevent us from brushing Him off as merely a "good teacher" or "one of many ways to God"?
2. What were the three responses of the crowds to Jesus teaching? (V.40-42) What does each one reveal about their differing responses to His words?
3. V.43 tells us "So there was division among the people over him." Why was Jesus such a divisive force? Why is it important to understand the reasons Jesus was divisive?
4. Compare and contrast the reasons Jesus was divisive with the reason false teachers and false doctrine are divisive.
5. The words of Jesus can be divisive, but how is it also the grounds for true Christian unity?
6. How does the response of the Pharisees ironically reveal their pride and hardness of heart? Further, how does Nicodemus reveal their hypocrisy as to keeping the law?
7. Why do we see such a different response from Nicodemus? Why do we see in John 3 as He encounters Jesus that would bring about such change?
8. Consider some of the spectacular statements made by Jesus. What do they reveal about Him? Are there any that particularly stand out to you?

Application

1. Have you experienced division from family or friends simply because of your faith in Christ? If so, how does this passage of scripture minister to you?
2. How does the response of the crowds, and the Pharisees lead you to deal with the "pharisee in you"?
3. How do the incredible words of Jesus minister to your faith?

Personal Discipline

The fact the Jesus' words often divide truth from error, and belief from unbelief, leads us to consider the question Jesus once asked His disciples "who do you say that I am?" Pray that the Holy Spirit would enlighten your heart and mind to receive God's word, and give you eyes to see the glory of Christ in the gospel!