

John 7:25-36

EXAMINING THE REALITY OF JESUS

v24 - "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgement." - Jesus

John 7:25-27 - ²⁵Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? ²⁶And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ? ²⁷But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from."

- Ambiguity in this text... Curious? Sarcastic?
- Target on back? *IN AM CASE... EXAMINING*
- What are they doing?
 - Are they going to deal with him?
- We know where he comes from
 - Messianic expectations of appearance
 - Undoubtedly HIM.

- EXAMINING REQUIRES QUESTIONING
 - Examine self and facts
- EXAMINING REQUIRES PUSHING TO UNDERSTAND
 - Does this make sense?
- EXAMINING REQUIRES HONESTY
 - What they knew and didn't know

- If you are examining the reality of Jesus in any way, you can only do so by bringing your whole self (mind, body, soul, and spirit).
 - Our sin, shame, fear, and anger all cloud this.
- We need a humble posture to examine God.
- He is not on trial, we are
- Our faith is strong enough for exploration. Good examination makes for stronger convictions.

CLARIFYING THE REALITY OF JESUS

John 7:28-31 - ²⁸So 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. ²⁹I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me." ³⁰So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. ³¹Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?"

- 28-29 - You do know earthly origin, but I didn't come by myself.
 - Sent by God, he is real, I know him.
- 30 - God's ordained time.
- 31 - Many surrendered to faith
- Carson - The implication is that those who recognize who he is really do know God; those who cannot discern who he is cannot possibly know God, especially not now when the very focal point of the divine self-disclosure is the incarnate word before them.

- CLARITY IS LOVING
 - "Yes, good point..." - Meeting where we are.
- CLARITY IS HELPFUL
 - "Here's what's actually true." - Lies are not helpful.
- CLARITY IS LIBERATING
 - Leads to saving faith for those who can hear.

- Some aspects of our faith don't have tidy answers; but the things that matter the most are the clearest.
- And the world, the flesh, and the devil are all seeking to muddy what God makes clear in his word.
- "Did God really say...?"
- CLEAR
 - Who Jesus is
 - What he came to do
 - What this means for us

REJECTING THE REALITY OF JESUS

John 7:32-36 - ³²The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest him. ³³Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. ³⁴You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come." ³⁵The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? ³⁶What does he mean by saying, 'You will seek me and you will not find me,' and, 'Where I am you cannot come'?"

- 32 - Momentum must be arrested
- 33-34 - I'm only here a bit longer, then returning to God.
 - You will seek in vain and not find me, and you will be kept from his presence
 - ...WHAT KEPT THEM?...
- 35-36 - What does he mean?
 - Preaching to Gentiles?
 - We can find him anywhere...

- PRIDE STOPS OUR EARS
 - Can't listen, only hear
- PRIDE PUFFS UP OUR SELF
 - We WILL find him... we can do anything.
- PRIDE HARDENS OUR HEART
 - Miss the warning of Jesus
 - Ignore what Jesus is doing

- If you are a Christian, a follower of God, and there is too much pride, you will twist the words of Jesus and you won't be able to follow him.
- Pride is conservative and liberal
 - The enemy doesn't care, as long as you are fashioning your own God
 - "My Jesus..." "the Jesus I know..." tolerance, etc.
 - Some of you are following the Jesus of your making, not the Jesus of the Scriptures
- The true is radically loving, but that love calls us to radical holiness as well.
- The true Jesus calls for the heads of all demons and for the shattering of all idols
- ALL OF US, YOUNG AND OLD, MUST TEAR DOWN WHAT WAS BEFORE AND BUILD OUR LIVES UPON THE STRONG/KIND, TOUGH/TENDER, LOVING/AWESOME, NEAR/MAJESTIC JESUS.

In PRIDE, did not heed warning.

Repentance always possible, but their hearts were too hard.