



The Gospel of John: *Know Jesus and Live*

Part 22

John 7:25-39

Introduction

- Last week we saw that, for the most part, the Jewish people didn't believe in him. They were so fixated on his miracles, his ability to speak with great wisdom and articulation, and his apparent disregard for some rabbinic traditions, that they failed to see the most important thing. They failed to see that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God! To these unbelieving people he gave the following charge...
 - ❖ John 7:24—*Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.*
- In saying this, Jesus is inviting people to see him for who he really is. The question of course is, how do the people respond? Will they begin to look deeper? Our text today reveals that they will. They will ask three really good questions and many will come to believe in him...

Three good questions

1. Isn't this the guy the religious leaders wanted to kill?

❖ **John 7:25-26a**

- The answer of course is yes. We have seen this to be the case more than once in our study of John...
 - ❖ John 5:18—*This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.*
 - ❖ John 7:1—*After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him*
 - ❖ John 7:19—*Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?*
- That said, the real point of this question isn't to identify Jesus, it is to figure out why those who were so intent on killing him are all of a sudden allowing him to do what ever he wants. It just isn't normal for a guy on death row to be allowed to roam free and teach in public. So why are they allowing him to do this? The next question in the text attempts to make sense of this...

2. Is it because they believe he is the Christ?

❖ **John 7:26b**

- This is really the most logical question they could ask themselves. The logic flows something like this...If they were all ready to have him put to death before and now he is allowed to do whatever he wants, maybe they have changed their mind about him. Maybe they have come to believe in Jesus.
- This logic lead some to immediately object. They were certain this couldn't possibly be the Christ. We see this in...

❖ **John 7:27**

- This of course is bad theology. The book of Micah makes it quite clear that we know where the Messiah would come from...
 - ❖ Micah 5:2—*But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.*
- Fortunately, not everyone believed this non-sense. Many understood that...



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❖ John 7:42—*Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?*

- What I find very interesting is how Jesus responds to their bad theology. He could have said, “Have you read Micah 5:2? That’s about me! I was born in Bethlehem!” But he didn’t. He had a bigger issue to deal with. You see, though it is helpful to know Jesus’s earthly birthplace and hometown, it is far more important to know his heavenly origin. This is why he says...

❖ **John 7:28-29**

- To many, this was incredibly offensive. Jesus was basically saying, “I come from God, but you don’t know anything about God.” It was this statement that made them want to throw him in jail. However, they couldn’t. They wanted Jesus silenced and locked up, but something prevented them from being able to accomplish this. We see this in...

❖ **John 7:30**

- The truth of this verse is that God is sovereign over EVERYTHING! God ordains all things that come to pass and God ordains exactly when all things will come to pass. Thus, if God hasn’t ordained that Jesus would be arrested, Jesus isn’t getting arrested.
- Let’s take a moment to think about the implications of that very truth in our lives. How often do we find ourselves full of fear and anxiety over what is happening or what might happen in our lives? Pretty often right? This truth promises us that absolutely nothing will happen to us unless it has been ordained by God. This truth promises that all things that God has ordained to happen will happen precisely when he wants them to happen. You might be thinking, “...ok...what’s so great about that?” What makes this so great is that our totally sovereign God works all things for his own glory (Isaiah 48:9-11) and he works all things together for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purposes (Romans 8:28). When we come to truly understand and believe this, fear and anxiety disappear. You’re not afraid of bad things happening to you know that all things are being used for you good. You’re not anxious about anything any more because you know that God, the treasure of your heart, will be glorified no matter what.

3. When the Christ appears will he do more signs than these?

❖ **John 7:31**

- two things to see here...
 - (1) People were beginning to really believe in him
 - (2) The people who believed in him were challenging others to do the same.
 - They were challenging people. They were saying, “You think there is going to be a so-called Messiah even more powerful than this guy!? What are you nuts!?”

The Pharisees try to stop him

❖ **John 7:32-36**



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- The simple truth we see here is that Jesus did not come to stay here in this broken fallen world. He had no intention of establishing a military. He had no intention of being the ruler of a geo-political nation. He came to die. He came to take upon himself the punishment that we deserve. Though he despised it, he came to bear our shame (Hebrews 12:2). Yet, this is not his final destination. He came to be resurrected. In rising he shows the whole world that the punishment has been paid and there is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ (Romans 8:1)! Yet, even this is not his final destination. The place that he is finally going that we cannot go is heaven itself. He says to these people, you can't get there. There is absolutely nothing you can do to earn a spot in glory.
- If we want to follow Jesus. If we want to be were he is, we must be born again (John 3:3), we need Holy Spirit to take out our heart of stone and put within us a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26), and we need the heavenly Father to bring us to Jesus
 - ❖ John 6:44—*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.*
- This beautiful truth was not at all discerned by his captors. They had no idea what he was talking about. Their best guess was that Jesus was going to the leave Jerusalem so that he could teach the Jews who lived among the Greeks.

Jesus promises rivers of living water

❖ *John 7:37-39*

- A few things to see here...
 - 1. What is this great day of the feast?**
 - “The seventh day of the festival, the last day proper, was marked by a special water-pouring rite and lights ceremony (m. Sukkah 4:1, 9–10).¹” The water pouring was to remember Moses striking the rock in Exodus 17. The children of Israel were camped at a place that had no source of water. They grumbled against Moses and said...
 - ❖ Exodus 17:3—“Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst”
 - When all hope was lost and they seemed certain to die of thirst in the wilderness, God provided life saving water for them.
 - 2. Does anyone thirst?**
 - In the midst of celebrating God providing life saving water to people who were doomed to die of thirst, Jesus cries out, “Is anyone thirsty!” This question is far more than, “Does anyone want a Coke?” Jesus was really asking is there anyone here who understands that they are too are in a desperate predicament? Is there anyone who is aware that they are about to perish if God doesn't do something to save them?
 - 3. Rivers of living water**

¹ D.A. Carson & Gregory Beale, *Commentary on the New Testament use of the Old Testament*.



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- When Jesus says that anyone who believes in him will have rivers of living water flowing from his heart, he is telling everyone, “Just as God called Moses to strike the rock so that his people would have a flow life saving water, I will be struck so that my people will have within them streams of life saving water.”

4. Holy Spirit is the living water

- In John 4 we saw that the living water that Jesus gives brings eternal life...
 - ❖ John 4:13—*Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life*
- Here in John 7 we discover that we aren’t just getting something, we are getting someone. After Jesus is glorified and ascends to heaven, the Holy Spirit is sent to...
 - (1) Regenerates us/Gives us life/Cause us to be born again
 - ❖ John 1:12-13—*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God*
 - ❖ John 6:63—*It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all*
 - (2) Empower us with gifts to do the work of the ministry
 - ❖ Joel 2:28-29—*“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit”*
 - ❖ **1 Cor 12:4-11**
 - (3) Teach us truth
 - ❖ John 14:26—*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you*
 - (4) Sanctify us/Make us holy
 - ❖ 2 Thessalonians 2:13—*But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth*
 - (5) Intercede for us
 - ❖ Romans 8:26-27—*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God*
 - (6) Seal us for the day of redemption/Keep us in the faith
 - ❖ Ephesians 1:13—*In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory*
- Overwhelming what Holy Spirit does in us isn’t it? This, I believe, is why Jesus describes it as rivers of living water flowing out of us. Beloved we must not forget that the only reason we have this overwhelming, overflowing, gushing out of us gift of Holy Spirit is because of Jesus and his obedience to death, his glorious resurrection, and his ascension into glory.