

John 7:32-8:11 – Division Over Jesus

In the first part of chapter seven, the people went from saying that Jesus had a demon to saying that he might be the Messiah (Christ). There was a division among the people about Jesus. Some said he was good, and maybe even the Messiah. Others said he had a demon and he was deceiving the people. Some wanted to arrest him. That brings us to the second part of chapter 7. In chapter five, the Jewish religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus. In chapter seven, at the Feast of Booths, the chief priests and Pharisees tried to arrest Jesus. In the second half of chapter seven, Jesus only speaks in four verses. The rest is about the people's reactions to Jesus.

Read John 7:32-36.

In verse 31 some people were wondering if Jesus was the Messiah (Christ). The Pharisees heard about what the people were saying and they wanted to put a stop to it so the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest Jesus. Why did they think Jesus needed to be stopped?

What did Jesus say about himself and those seeking him in verses 33 and 34? What did Jesus mean?

What did the people think that Jesus might mean by his statements? (7:35-36)

Read John 7:37-44.

During the time of Jesus, there was a daily ceremony during the Feast of Booths which involved drawing water from the Pool of Siloam and bringing it to the temple where the water was poured out at the altar. Much singing, dancing and celebrating accompanied the ceremony. What did Jesus proclaim on the last day of the feast? (7:37-38) How is this similar to or different from what he said to the Samaritan woman or what he said in chapter six about drinking his blood? John provided commentary on what Jesus was talking about. What insight does John give us into the statement made by Jesus? (7:39)

How did the people react to Jesus words? Who did they think Jesus was? What did they get right and what did they get wrong? (7:40-44)

Read John 7:45-52.

What excuse did the officers give for not bringing Jesus back to the chief priests and Pharisees? (7:46)

How did the religious leaders react to the officers' response? (7:47-48)

What was the religious leaders attitude toward the people? (7:49) Who was responsible for teaching the law to the people?

Nicodemus tried to push back against the religious leaders' zeal to reject Jesus. What excuse did they give for not believing in Jesus? (7:52)

The Pharisees judged themselves because they didn't know all of the Old Testament even though they thought that they did. The beginning of Isaiah chapter nine is a great passage about the coming Messiah. What does Isaiah 9:1-2 say about Galilee? Note that the area where Jesus spent most of his time was in the land given to the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali.

Read John 7:53-8:11.

What does this passage teach us? How is this passage misused today?