

John Chapter Seven

Read John 7:1-9 – Reproved by His Kinsmen

v.1 “AFTER THESE THINGS JESUS WALKED IN GALILEE: FOR HE WOULD NOT WALK IN JEWRY, BECAUSE THE JEWS SOUGHT TO KILL HIM.”

After the teaching sessions John recorded in chapter six, the scripture says that Jesus continued to walk in Galilee. He did not return to Judea at this point because that the Jews there sought to kill him and it was not yet time in God's plan for him to be sacrificed. Religion seems to intensify and the feelings and emotions of people. The most ardent fanatics in the world are those who go to religious extremes. Anyone who has lived during the past few years can see that being manifested in the world news every day of our lives. This mindset is contrary to the will of God but has been common among man made religions throughout history.

v.2 “NOW THE JEWS' FEAST OF TABERNACLES WAS AT HAND.”

The feast of the tabernacles commemorated the camping out of the Jews in their journey from Egypt to Canaan.

Leviticus 23:34 “SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, SAYING, THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF THIS SEVENTH MONTH **shall be** THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES **for** SEVEN DAYS UNTO THE LORD.” **v.39** “ALSO IN THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF THE SEVENTH MONTH, WHEN YE HAVE GATHERED IN THE FRUIT OF THE LAND, YE SHALL KEEP A FEAST UNTO THE LORD SEVEN DAYS: ON THE FIRST DAY **shall be** A SABBATH, AND ON THE EIGHTH DAY **shall be** A SABBATH.”

So, something that can be a source of confusion to folks who don't study the Jewish feasts, the Feast of the Tabernacles and The Feast of the Ingathering were celebrated concurrently. The Feast of the Ingathering was one of the three when all faithful Jewish men were to be in attendance at Jerusalem.

v3. “HIS BRETHREN THEREFORE SAID UNTO HIM, DEPART HENCE, AND GO INTO JUDAEA, THAT THY DISCIPLES ALSO MAY SEE THE WORKS THAT THOU DOEST.”

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The family of Jesus, his “BRETHERN” or brothers in the flesh prepared to keep God’s commandments concerning this feast and urged him to do so as well. The fact that Mary and Joseph had other children is established in scripture thereby destroying any theory of Mary being the Blessed Virgin who dedicated her life to God and lived a celibate life after Jesus was born as some teach.

Of course, this isn’t the only reference to Jesus earthly family.

Matthew 12:46 “WHILE HE YET TALKED TO THE PEOPLE, BEHOLD, *his* MOTHER AND HIS BRETHREN STOOD WITHOUT, DESIRING TO SPEAK WITH HIM.”

Acts 1:14 “THESE ALL CONTINUED WITH ONE ACCORD IN PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION, WITH THE WOMEN, AND MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS, AND WITH HIS BRETHREN.”

v.4 “FOR *there is* NO MAN *that* DOETH ANY THING IN SECRET, AND HE HIMSELF SEEKETH TO BE KNOWN OPENLY. IF THOU DO THESE THINGS, SHOW THYSELF TO THE WORLD.”

This attitude of Jesus brethren is a worldly approach to his popularity and acceptance. To keep the honor of the world a man has to keep himself and his work before the world. In speaking of his miracles they said “IF THOU DO THESE THINGS...” and John tells us why.

v.5 “FOR NEITHER DID HIS BRETHREN BELIEVE IN HIM.”

This verse states plainly that the doubt expressed in the words just previous were indeed grounded in unbelief much the same as is recorded by Mark:

Mark 3:21 “AND WHEN HIS FRIENDS HEARD *of it*, THEY WENT OUT TO LAY HOLD ON HIM: FOR THEY SAID, HE IS BESIDE HIMSELF.”

And John is not talking about his friends or his disciples but his physical family; his fleshly brothers.

v.6 “THEN JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, MY TIME IS NOT YET COME: BUT YOUR TIME IS ALWAYS READY.”

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The time for Jesus to fully manifest himself to the world had not yet come, so he could not go up to this feast, at least in the manner that his brethren suggested that he do. That would come later when he enters Jerusalem as a king in fulfillment of prophecy. This is the same response that he gave Mary when she asked him to provide refreshment for the wedding feast in Capernaum as we studied in **John 2:4**. His family, being regular people, could go to the feast when they were ready. Someone who has a special purpose or a mission, divine or otherwise, must wait until the proper time to execute that mission or it will fail.

v.7 "THE WORLD CANNOT HATE YOU; BUT ME IT HATETH, BECAUSE I TESTIFY, THAT THE WORKS THEREOF ARE EVIL."

The world will not hate those who are like it but will hate those who oppose it. It is no different with people. I speak from personal experience and wouldn't be surprised if many of us here could do so as well. Jesus was hated for a different reason, he tells us:

John 3:19 "AND THIS IS THE CONDEMNATION, THAT LIGHT IS COME INTO THE WORLD, AND MEN LOVED DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT, BECAUSE THEIR DEEDS WERE EVIL."

And Jesus warns his disciples that they will be treated the same way:

John 15:19 "IF YE WERE OF THE WORLD, THE WORLD WOULD LOVE HIS OWN: BUT BECAUSE YE ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, BUT I HAVE CHOSEN YOU OUT OF THE WORLD, THEREFORE THE WORLD HATETH YOU."

v.8 "GO YE UP UNTO THIS FEAST: I GO NOT UP YET UNTO THIS FEAST: FOR MY TIME IS NOT YET FULL COME."

Jesus tells his brethren, go ahead, go to the feast without me. In his words "I GO NOT UP YET" he indicates that he will go up, he will attend but not just yet. Quite probably his enemies would be watching those groups of people coming into Jerusalem for the feast, especially those from Galilee.

v.9 "WHEN HE HAD SAID THESE WORDS UNTO THEM, HE ABODE *still* IN GALILEE."

He stayed in Galilee; at least until they had gone and he could move about freely without being known.

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v.10 “BUT WHEN HIS BRETHREN WERE GONE UP, WHEN WENT HE ALSO UP UNTO THE FEAST, NOT OPENLY, BUT AS IT WERE IN SECRET.”

To reduce the opportunity for his enemies to confront him before he was ready, Jesus waited an appropriate period of time and then went up to Jerusalem quietly, perhaps even secretly, without allowing anyone except trusted friends to know that he was there.

Read John 7:11-13 – Jesus Goes Privately to the Feast

v.11 “THEN THE JEWS SOUGHT HIM AT THE FEAST, AND SAID, WHERE IS HE?”

Jesus reputation had grown and he was expected to appear at this great gathering of people so both his friends and possibly even his enemies inquired after him.

v.12 “AND THERE WAS MUCH MURMURING AMONG THE PEOPLE CONCERNING HIM: FOR SOME SAID, HE IS A GOOD MAN: OTHERS SAID, NAY, BUT HE DECEIVETH THE PEOPLE.”

He had impressed people. But as people tend to be; some believed on him but others disagreed and said No, he deceives people. This is the same kind of disagreement about Jesus we find in other examples:

John 10:19 “THERE WAS A DIVISION THEREFORE AGAIN AMONG THE JEWS FOR THESE SAYINGS.”

Even later when they would take him and put him in prison or kill him his enemies feared the people that did believe that he was a prophet:

Matthew 21:46 “BUT WHEN THEY SOUGHT TO LAY HANDS ON HIM, THEY FEARED THE MULTITUDE, BECAUSE THEY TOOK HIM FOR A PROPHET.”

v.13 “HOWBEIT NO MAN SPAKE OPENLY OF HIM FOR FEAR OF THE JEWS.”

This talk, especially those who approved of him or thought him a prophet, was private discussion, none speaking publicly because of their fear of the rulers of the Jews. Even the parents of one that Jesus healed were afraid:

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John 9:22 “THESE *words* SPAKE HIS PARENTS, BECAUSE THEY FEARED THE JEWS: FOR THE JEWS HAD AGREED ALREADY, THAT IF ANY MAN DID CONFESS THAT HE WAS CHRIST, HE SHOULD BE PUT OUT OF THE SYNAGOGUE.”

This relates to the parents of a blind man healed by Jesus. The fear of these rulers of the Jews was present even among the ruling body itself.

John 12:42 “NEVERTHELESS AMONG THE CHIEF RULERS ALSO MANY BELIEVED ON HIM; BUT BECAUSE OF THE PHARISEES THEY DID NOT CONFESS *him*, LEST THEY SHOULD BE PUT OUT OF THE SYNAGOGUE.”

In our study of John chapter three we see Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night. We're not told that fear was the reason that he visited Jesus at night; but it's possible. Even the man in whose tomb Jesus lay until his resurrection was a person that feared his church rulers.

John 19:38 “AND AFTER THIS JOSEPH OF ARIMATHAEA, BEING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS, BUT SECRETLY FOR FEAR OF THE JEWS, BESOUGHT PILATE THAT HE MIGHT TAKE AWAY THE BODY OF JESUS: AND PILATE GAVE *him* LEAVE. HE CAME THEREFORE, AND TOOK THE BODY OF JESUS.”

Read John 7:14-24 – Jesus Teaches in the Temple

v.14 “NOW ABOUT THE MIDST OF THE FEAST JESUS WENT UP INTO THE TEMPLE, AND TAUGHT.”

Jesus had gone to Jerusalem later in the feast week, some say about the third day, secretly, so as not to be molested or stopped. The large numbers of people who crowded Jerusalem and the temple during the feast allowed him to abandon the secrecy of his travels and began to teach openly.

v.15 “AND THE JEWS MARVELLED, SAYING, HOW KNOWETH THIS MAN LETTERS, HAVING NEVER LEARNED?”

This was no different that those at Nazareth who heard him teach in their synagogue.

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Mark 6:2-3 “AND WHEN THE SABBATH DAY WAS COME, HE BEGAN TO TEACH IN THE SYNAGOGUE: AND MANY HEARING *him* WERE ASTONISHED, SAYING, FROM WHENCE HATH THIS *man* THESE THINGS? AND WHAT WISDOM IS THIS WHICH IS GIVEN UNTO HIM, THAT EVEN SUCH MIGHTY WORKS ARE WROUGHT BY HIS HANDS? IS NOT THIS THE CARPENTER, THE SON OF MARY, THE BROTHER OF JAMES, AND JOSES, AND OF JUDA, AND SIMON? AND ARE NOT HIS SISTERS HERE WITH US? AND THEY WERE OFFENDED AT HIM.”

Did carpenters go to school to learn their letters in the days of Jesus? Farmers? Shepherds? Fishermen? Even though in our study of the time between the testaments we determined that a form of education was begun and they were taught the Law; their knowledge was nowhere near the level from which Jesus spoke. Jesus knew the Mosaic Law, he knew how to apply it; he could confound the brightest and most learned of the Pharisees. Paul attended the school of Gamaliel and was well prepared to become God's apostle to the Gentiles. But, we have no record of Jesus ever attending school. These people wonder where he learned his letters; where he learned the law of God. He tells them:

v.16 “JESUS ANSWERED THEM, AND SAID, MY DOCTRINE IS NOT MINE, BUT HIS THAT SENT ME.”

Jesus answers their skepticism the same way he does in several other instances in the same kind of situation.

John 3:11 “VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO THEE, WE SPEAK THAT WE DO KNOW, AND TESTIFY THAT WE HAVE SEEN; AND YE RECEIVE NOT OUR WITNESS.”

John 12:49 “FOR I HAVE NOT SPOKEN OF MYSELF; BUT HE FATHER WHICH SENT ME, HE GAVE ME A COMMANDMENT, WHAT I SHOULD SAY, AND WHAT I SHOULD SPEAK.”

v.17 “IF ANY MAN WILL DO HIS WILL, HE SHALL KNOW OF THE DOCTRINE, WHETHER IT BE OF GOD, OR *whether* I SPEAK OF MYSELF.”

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Jesus says that anyone who really wants to do the will of God; will know that Jesus' doctrine is from God and did not originate with Jesus or any other who walked this earth. This teaches that if anyone really wants to do the will of God; he will be able to recognize it when he sees it, or when he hears it, does it not? Many people seem to think that the Word of God is much too difficult for the average man to understand. But ignorance of scripture on the part of those who have access to a Bible is not the problem but rather their failure to learn it and/or their refusal to accept it.

v.18 "HE THAT SPEAKETH OF HIMSELF SEEKETH HIS OWN GLORY: BUT HE THAT SEEKETH HIS GLORY THAT SENT HIM, THE SAME IS TRUE, AND NO UNRIGHTEOUSNESS IS IN HIM."

One of the ways that mankind will know the truth when he hears it is that the speaker will not be speaking of himself or his own doctrine but rather the doctrine or teaching of God.

v.19 "DID NOT MOSES GIVE YOU THE LAW, AND YET NONE OF YOU KEEPETH THE LAW? WHY GO YE ABOUT TO KILL ME?"

Moses gave them the Law; of that they were sure; for they knew what was written in:

Exodus 24:3 "AND MOSES CAME AND TOLD THE PEOPLE ALL THE WORDS OF THE **LORD**, AND ALL THE JUDGMENTS: AND ALL THE PEOPLE ANSWERED WITH ONE VOICE, AND SAID, ALL THE WORDS WHICH THE **LORD** HATH SAID WILL WE DO."

Stephen testified of Jesus that he was the prophet that Moses promised:

Acts 7:38 "THIS IS HE, THAT WAS IN THE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS WITH THE ANGEL WHICH SPAKE TO HIM IN THE MOUNT SINA, AND *with* OUR FATHERS: WHO RECEIVED THE LIVELY ORACLES TO GIVE UNTO US:

And they killed Stephen for this teaching. These Jews whom Jesus confronted also planned to kill him for, in their minds at least, he broke the law of Moses. None of them kept the law perfectly but was ready to use it to destroy one whom they opposed. That happens in churches today; one who does not keep the law of Christ, thinks himself to be above the law will use the law to destroy his enemies especially those who dare to oppose him if he is in power and loves that power too much.

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v.20 “THE PEOPLE ANSWERED AND SAID, THOU HAST A DEVIL: WHO GOETH ABOUT TO KILL THEE?”

This is the equivalent of one of us saying, “You’re crazy, nobody is plotting to kill you.” But Jesus knew their hearts. He could look inside their minds and know what they were thinking.

v.21 “JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO THEM, I HAVE DONE ONE WORK, AND YE ALL MARVEL.”

Jesus is apparently referring to his healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath day as we studied in an earlier chapter.

v.22 “MOSES THEREFORE GAVE UNTO YOU CIRCUMCISION; (NOT BECAUSE IT IS OF MOSES, BUT OF THE FATHER;) AND YE ON THE SABBATH DAY CIRCUMCISE A MAN.”

When and where did circumcision originate? Circumcision did not originate during the time of Moses but well before Moses during the calling of Abraham:

Genesis 17:10 “THIS *is* MY COVENANT, WHICH YE SHALL KEEP, BETWEEN ME AND YOU AND THY SEED AFTER THEE; EVERY MAN CHILD AMONG YOU SHALL BE CIRCUMCISED.”

It was carried forward by the law given through Moses:

Leviticus 12:2-3 “SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, SAYING, IF A WOMAN HAVE CONCEIVED SEED, AND BORN A MAN CHILD: THEN SHE SHALL BE UNCLEAN SEVEN DAYS; ACCORDING TO THE DAYS OF THE SEPARATION FOR HER INFIRMITY SHALL SHE BE UNCLEAN. AND IN THE EIGHTH DAY THE FLESH OF HIS FORESKIN SHALL BE CIRCUMCISED.”

In obedience to the law given through Moses they Jews would circumcise their boy children on the eighth day even if it fell on the Sabbath.

v.23 “IF A MAN ON THE SABBATH DAY RECEIVE CIRCUMCISION, THAT THE LAW OF MOSES SHOULD NOT BE BROKEN; ARE YE ANGRY AT ME, BECAUSE I HAVE MADE A MAN EVERY WHIT WHOLE ON THE SABBATH DAY?”

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Jesus in his healing of the infirm or crippled man was exercising God's law of mercy. God's law of mercy is eternal, older than either the law given to the Israelites or the circumcision law given to Abraham. Jesus just asks them; if you can set aside the Sabbath law to do circumcision on the sabbath; how is it that you condemn me if I heal an man on the sabbath. Basically he's making no distinction between carrying out one part of God's law versus another. The Jews restriction of the Sabbath went beyond what God required.

v.24 "JUDGE NOT ACCORDING TO THE APPEARANCE, BUT JUDGE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT."

When Moses set captains, officers and judges over the tribes of Israel he realized with God's help that his people would need these leaders and judges. He, through the inspiration of God, gives them direction:

Deuteronomy 1:16-17 "AND I CHARGED YOUR JUDGES AT THAT TIME, SAYING, HEAR *the causes* BETWEEN YOUR BRETHREN, AND JUDGE RIGHTEOUSLY BETWEEN *every* MAN AND HIS BROTHER, AND THE STRANGER *that is* WITH HIM. YE SHALL NOT RESPECT PERSONS IN JUDGMENT, *but* YE SHALL HEAR THE SMALL AS WELL AS THE GREAT; YE SHALL NOT BE AFRAID OF THE FACE OF MAN; FOR THE JUDGMENT *is* GOD'S: AND THE CAUSE THAT IS TOO HARD FOR YOU, BRING *it* UNTO ME, AND I WILL HEAR IT."

They were to judge righteous judgment, not favor one person over another, hear the small as well as the great and not be afraid of the face of any man. We are to follow these same instructions today as God's direction is this regard never grows stale or diminishes in wisdom over time. Jesus tells us not to judge just by appearances but to judge righteous judgment. God tells us by way of Jeremiah the prophet how God judges:

Jeremiah 17:10 "I THE LORD SEARCH THE HEART, / TRY THE REINS, EVEN TO GIVE EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS WAYS, *and* ACCORDING TO THE FRUIT OF HIS DOINGS."

We can't look in a man's heart as God does to judge his actions and his purposes but we can follow the balance of that instruction and Jesus tells us to do just that:

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Matthew 7:15 “BEWARD OF FALSE PROPHETS, WHICH COME TO YOU IN SHEEP’S CLOTHING, BUT INWARDLY THEY ARE RAVENING WOLVES. **v.16** “YE SHALL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUITS.....” **v.20** “WHEREFORE BY THEIR FRUITS YE SHALL KNOW THEM.”

Whether it be a false teacher; a brother or sister who is about to lose their soul; or an elder who is conducting himself contrary to the will of God; our inspection of their fruits and determination of their need, our need to try to help them, or our need to avoid them should all be made on the same basis; righteous judgment of their actions and the results of those actions. Both **John 7:24** and **Matthew 7:15-20** should put to bed the contention made by many people that we are not to judge. But that is not what Jesus is telling us in the full context of Matthew 7:1-2. He is instructing his disciples and us that we must be careful and cautious in our judgment. If we judge others harshly and unfairly we will be judged in the same manner. If we judge and condemn others for sin when there is sin in our lives, we need to correct our own spiritual problems before we endeavor to correct others.

Read John 7:25-36 – The People’s Discussion

v.25 “THEN SAID SOME OF THEM OF JERUSALEM, IS NOT THIS HE, WHOM THEY SEEK TO KILL?”

Even those people that were not of the ruling class or members of the Sanhedrin knew that the Jewish rulers planned to kill Jesus and as a result did not understand the boldness he displayed at this time.

v.26 “BUT, LO, HE SPEAKETH BOLDLY, AND THEY SAY NOTHING UNTO HIM. DO THE RULERS KNOW INDEED THAT THIS IS THE VERY CHRIST?”

They’re confused. They know the purpose of the Jewish rulers yet these rulers are not carrying out their plans. They speculate; have their rulers suddenly realized that this is the Christ?

v.27 “HOWBEIT WE KNOW THIS MAN WHENCE HE IS: BUT WHEN CHRIST COMETH, NO MAN KNOWETH WHENCE HE IS.”

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One of the things that they didn't understand is that they apparently thought that when Christ came; no one would know where he came from. It would almost as though they thought that the Messiah would appear like an avenging angel out of heaven. But they knew where this man came from and this caused doubt to be raised in their minds. He was born of a woman, grew up in a small city in Galilee and his teaching and miracles did not correspond with his humble arrival. After hearing Jesus teach in their synagogue those in Nazareth asked:

Matthew 13:55 "IS NOT THIS THE CARPENTER'S SON? IS NOT HIS MOTHER CALLED MARY? AND HIS BRETHREN, JAMES, AND JOSES, AND SIMON, AND JUDAS?" see also **Mark 6:3; Luke 4:22**

v.28 "THEN CRIED JESUS IN THE TEMPLE AS HE TAUGHT, SAYING, YE BOTH KNOW ME, AND YE KNOW WHENCE I AM: AND I AM NOT COME OF MYSELF, BUT HE THAT SENT ME IS TRUE, WHOM YE KNOW NOT."

Jesus knew their minds, he knew what they were thinking about him. In one sense they knew him but in the other sense they did not. One of the main reasons that they did not know him is that they did not know God. In a later chapter he even calls them liars because they claim to know God but do not.

John 8:55 "YET YE HAVE NOT KNOWN HIM; BUT I KNOW HIM: AND IF I SHOULD SAY, I KNOW HIM NOT, I SHALL BE A LIAR LIKE UNTO YOU: BUT I KNOW HIM, AND KEEP HIS SAYING."

v.29 "BUT I KNOW HIM: FOR I AM FROM HIM, AND HE HATH SENT ME."

Jesus alone knew the mind of the Father because he was the Son of God. Again we see John's purpose in writing to prove and verify the deity and divinity of Jesus. He had come to earth from the Father; had come to make known to the people that which the Father had sent him to reveal.

Matthew 11:27 "ALL THINGS ARE DELIVERED UNTO ME OF MY FATHER: AND NO MAN KNOWETH THE SON, BUT THE FATHER; NEITHER KNOWETH ANY MAN THE FATHER, SAVE THE SON, AND *he* TO WHOMSOEVER THE SON WILL REVEAL *him*."

But they would not accept that. He didn't fit their expectations, he was but a humble carpenter's son from Nazareth, he disappointed them in every way.

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v.30 “THEN THEY SOUGHT TO TAKE HIM: BUT NO MAN LAID HANDS ON HIM, BECAUSE HIS HOUR WAS NOT YET COME.”

Just as Mark describes in **Mark 11:18**:

“AND THE SCRIBES AND CHIEF PRIESTS HEARD *it*, AND SOUGHT HOW THEY MIGHT DESTROY HIM: FOR THEY FEARED HIM, BECAUSE ALL THE PEOPLE WAS ASTONISHED AT HIS DOCTRINE.”

Or Luke in **Luke 19:47-48**

“AND HE TAUGHT DAILY IN THE TEMPLE. BUT THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THE SCRIBES AND THE CHIEF OF THE PEOPLE SOUGHT TO DESTROY HIM, AND COULD NOT FIND WHAT THEY MIGHT DO: FOR ALL THE PEOPLE WERE VERY ATTENTIVE TO HEAR HIM.”

The Jewish rulers were anxious to arrest and get rid him. But God was in control, there was more work for Jesus to do and the time had not yet come for Jesus to be sacrificed.

v.31 “AND MANY OF THE PEOPLE BELIEVED ON HIM, AND SAID, WHEN CHRIST COMETH, WILL HE DO MORE MIRACLES THAN THESE WHICH HIS *man* HATH DONE?”

Matthew 12:23 “AND ALL THE PEOPLE WERE AMAZED, AND SAID, IS NOT THIS THE SON OF DAVID?”

Jesus teaching, his miracles, his works and his very bearing and speech convinced many that he was divine. They have seen these wonders and they have heard his teaching so they're reasoning among themselves. When the Messiah does come would he not be doing just what Jesus has been doing? If this is the Christ promised would the Christ be able to do more that he's doing?

v.32 “THE PHARISEES HEARD THAT THE PEOPLE MURMURED SUCH THINGS CONCERNING HIM; AND THE PHARISEES AND THE CHIEF PRIESTS SENT OFFICERS TO TAKE HIM.”

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When Jesus fed the 5,000 men the multitude wanted to take him by force and make him king of Israel. The same kind of momentum is building among the people attending this feast in Jerusalem. These Pharisees and chief priests did not want this talk to spread. Too many people were too close to believing that he was the Christ; the promised one of God. And perhaps they reasoned, if this is the Messiah and he has indeed come to set up a kingdom, throw off Roman rule and sit on David's throne they would be out of power. Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely, they will not tolerate being replaced.

v.33 "THEN SAID JESUS UNTO THEM, YET A LITTLE WHILE AM I WITH YOU, AND THEN I GO UNTO HIM THAT SENT ME."

Jesus says, I'm going to be around for a little while yet. Then I'll go back to the one who sent me.

v.34 "YE SHALL SEEK ME, AND SHALL NOT FIND *me*: AND WHERE I AM, *thither* YE CANNOT COME."

During our study of the prophet Hosea; God had warned Israel that when trouble came they would seek him but would not be able to find Him because He was leaving them.

Hosea 6:5 "THEY SHALL GO WITH THEIR FLOCKS AND WITH THEIR HERDS TO SEEK THE **LORD**; BUT THEY SHALL NOT FIND *him*; HE HATH WITHDRAWN HIMSELF FROM THEM."

Just as their forefathers did and a good many folks do today; when trouble comes they would try to seek God out. In the days of Hosea Israel had turned their backs on God so God would turn his back on them. They would be destroyed, disbursed never to exist again as a nation. The day would come when these people would see Jesus, not understand the spiritual nature of mission, and would not find him because he would have returned to the Father.

v.35 "THEN SAID THE JEWS AMONG THEMSELVES, WHITHER WILL HE GO, THAT WE SHALL NOT FIND HIM? WILL HE GO UNTO THE DISPERSED AMONG THE GENTILES, AND TEACH THE GENTILES?"

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Many of the Jews were scattered among the Gentile peoples and across the Mediterranean world and they asked this question either in ignorance of His divine nature or to ridicule him implying that he would have to go to the Gentiles in order to gather a following. But in fact that is precisely when God has planned to do:

Isaiah 11:12 “AND HE SHALL SET UP AN ENSIGN FOR THE NATIONS, AND SHALL ASSEMBLE THE OUTCASTS OF ISRAEL, AND GATHER TOGETHER THE DISPERSED OF JUDAH FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH.”

And that is exactly what He did, howbeit through his apostles:

James 1:1 “JAMES, A SERVANT OF GOD AND OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, TO THE TWELVE TRIBES WHICH ARE SCATTERED ABROAD, GREETING.”

I Peter 1:1 “PETER, AN APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST, TO THE STRANGERS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT PONTUS, GALATIA, CAPPADOCIA, ASIA AND BITHYNIA.”

v.36 “WHAT *manner of* SAYING IS THIS THAT HE SAID, YE SHALL SEEK ME, AND SHALL NOT FIND *me*: AND WHERE I AM, *thither* YE CANNOT COME?”

Jesus told them that he was going someplace where they could not come. This saying of his laid on their minds; they did not understand; their thoughts were worldly, they applied his sayings to the physical realm instead of the spiritual. With this mindset they could not comprehend at all what he was teaching.

Read John 7:37-44 – Officers Sent to Arrest Jesus

v.37 “IN THE LAST DAY, THAT GREAT *day* OF THE FEAST, JESUS STOOD AND CRIED, SAYING, IF ANY MAN THIRST, LET HIM COME UNTO ME, AND DRINK.”

The last day of the feast was the greatest day and had been set aside for special attention:

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Leviticus 23:36 “SEVEN DAYS YE SHALL OFFER AN OFFERING MADE BY FIRE UNTO THE **LORD**: ON THE EIGHTH DAY SHALL BE AN HOLY CONVOCATION UNTO YOU; AND YE SHALL OFFER AN OFFERING MADE BY FIRE UNTO THE LORD: IT *is* A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY; *and* YE SHALL DO NO SERVILE WORK *therein*.”

Consequently this day had become the greatest day of the feast. It was this day that Jesus chose to call on all who would hear him, all who thirsted to come and drink the living waters of salvation. We also find John using this same type of language in the Revelation:

Revelation 22:17 “AND THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY, COME. AND LET HIM THAT HEARETH DAY, COME. AND LET HIM THAT IS ATHIRST COME. AND WHOSOEVER WILL, LET HIM TAKE THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY.”

v.38 “HE THAT BELIEVETH ON ME, AS THE SCRIPTURE HATH SAID, OUT OF HIS BELLY SHALL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER.”

The scripture that Jesus is referring to here is found in:

Zechariah 14:8-9 “AND IT SHALL BE IN THAT DAY, *that* LIVING WATERS SHALL GO OUT FROM JERUSALEM; HALF OF THEM TOWARD THE FORMER SEA, AND HALF OF THEM TOWARD THE HINDER SEA: IN SUMMER AND IN WINTER SHALL IT BE. AND THE LORD SHALL BE KING OVER ALL THE EARTH: IN THAT DAY SHALL THERE BE ONE LORD, AND HIS NAME ONE.”

The same analogy is found an earlier chapter studied of Jesus conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well:

John 4:14 “BUT WHOSOEVER DRINKETH OF THE WATER THAT I SHALL GIVE HIM SHALL NEVER THIRST; BUT THE WATER THAT I SHALL GIVE HIM SHALL BE IN HIM A WELL OF WATER SPRINGING UP INTO EVERLASTING LIFE.”

v.39 “(BUT THIS SPAKE HE OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH THEY THAT BELIEVE ON HIM SHOULD RECEIVE: FOR THE HOLY GHOST WAS NOT YET *given*; BECAUSE THAT JESUS WAS NOT YET GLORIFIED.)”

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Now the Holy Spirit reveals to us just what Jesus means when talks about the out pouring of "LIVING WATERS". Again we find the Bible to be its own best commentary; the outpouring of the spirit was prophesied:

Isaiah 44:3 "FOR I WILL POUR WATER UPON HIM THAT IS THIRSTY, AND FLOODS UPON THE DRY GROUND: I WILL POUR MY SPIRIT UPON THY SEED, AND MY BLESSING UPON THINE OFFSPRING."

Joel 2:28-29 "AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS AFTERWARD, *that* I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT UPON ALL FLESH; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS, YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL BE VISIONS AND ALSO UPON THE SERVANTS AND UPON THE HANDMAIDS IN THOSE DAYS WILL I POUR OUT MY SPIRIT."

This was confirmed by the Apostle Peter on Pentecost:

Acts 2:17-18 "AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAITH GOD, I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT UPON ALL FLESH: AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS: AND ON MY SERVANTS AND ON MY HANDMAIDENS I WILL POUR OUT IN THOSE DAYS OF MY SPIRIT; AND THEY SHALL PROPHECY."

v.40 "MANY OF THE PEOPLE THEREFORE, WHEN THEY HEARD THIS SAYING, SAID, OF A TRUTH THIS IS THE PROPHET."

Many of the people did believe or at least choose to speculate that this man Jesus was The Prophet, That Prophet, the Messiah or Christ for whom they had been looking for so many centuries:

Deuteronomy 18:15 "THE **LORD** THY GOD WILL RAISE UP UNTO THEE A PROPHET FROM THE MIDST OF THEE, OF THY BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO ME; UNTO HIM YE SHALL HEARKEN;" **v18.** "I WILL RAISE THEM UP A PROPHET FROM AMONG THEIR BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO THEE, AND WILL PUT MY WORDS IN HIS MOUTH; AND HE SHALL SPEAK UNTO THEM ALL THAT I SHALL COMMAND HIM."

That Prophet that John the Immerser had already told them about:

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John 1:15 “JOHN BARE WITNESS OF HIM, AND CRIED, SAYING, THIS WAS HE OF WHOM I SPAKE, HE THAT COMETH AFTER ME IS PREFERRED BEFORE ME: FOR HE WAS BEFORE ME.”

v.41 “OTHERS SAID, THIS IS THE CHRIST. BUT SOME SAID, SHALL CHRIST COME OUT OF GALILEE?”

John tells us that others agreed that this man is the Christ, the Messiah promised. But there was controversy because those who denied Christ based their claim on the fact that Jesus came out of Galilee. It didn't seem to matter that He taught as one having authority from God, it didn't matter that he performed miracles, wonders and gave them the signs that he was indeed that Prophet. Since he wasn't what they expected, didn't live in the region that they expected, they refused to accept him and even used the scripture to prove their point.

v.42 “HATH NOT THE SCRIPTURE SAID, THAT CHRIST COMETH OF THE SEED OF DAVID, AND OUT OF THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, WHERE DAVID WAS?”

It sounds like they have a good argument here doesn't it. This man's a Galilean, isn't he? And by scripture:

Jeremiah 23:5 “BEHOLD, THE DAYS COME, SAITH THE **LORD**, THAT I WILL RAISE UNTO DAVID A RIGHTEOUS BRANCH, AND A KING SHALL REIGN AND PROSPER, AND SHALL EXECUTE JUDGMENT AND JUSTICE IN THE EARTH.”

In our studies over the past years we've recognized that the Jews expected this descendant of David to set up an earthly kingdom and rule from Jerusalem. If we take just the words of Jeremiah we could build a pretty convincing argument in favor of that notion couldn't we? He wrote “A KING SHALL REIGN”, “EXECUTE JUDGMENT AND JUSTICE IN THE EARTH”

Micah 5:2 “BUT THOU, BETHLEHEM EPHRATAH *though* THOU BE LITTLE AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF JUDAH, *yet* OUT OF THEE SHALL HE COME FORTH UNTO ME *that is* TO BE THE RULER IN ISRAEL; WHOSE GOINGS FORTH *have been* FROM OF OLD, FROM EVERLASTING.”

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This man, Jesus, is a Galilean so here's proof; this man can't be That Prophet, That King, the Messiah must be a Judean; but are they right? We all know they aren't; when Herod inquired after this new King of the Jews, this Christ the Magi told him about:

Matthew 2:4-5 "AND WHEN HE HAD GATHERED ALL THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND SCRIBES OF THE PEOPLE TOGETHER, HE DEMANDED OF THEM WHERE CHRIST SHOULD BE BORN. AND THEY SAID UNTO HIM, IN BETHLEHEM OF JUDAEA: FOR THUS IT IS WRITTEN BY THE PROPHET."

And the next verse in **Matthew 2** goes on to quote **Micah 5:2**. We know, of course, that Jesus was born in Bethlehem and we can all tell the story from memory but how many remember where the scripture tells us that? In the taxing of Judea:

Luke 2:4-5 "AND JOSEPH ALSO WENT UP FROM GALILEE, OUT OF THE CITY OF NAZARETH, INTO JUDAEA, UNTO THE CITY OF DAVID, WHICH IS CALLED BETHLEHEM; (BECAUSE HE WAS OF THE HOUSE AND LINEAGE OF DAVID.) TO BE TAXED WITH MARY HIS ESPOUSED WIFE, BEING GREAT WITH CHILD."

v.43 "SO THERE WAS A DIVISION AMONG THE PEOPLE BECAUSE OF HIM."

So they started to divide into two parties. As men tend to do and have done for centuries, they started to chose up sides. Some were for him and some against him; some believed and some did not; and as we discussed in an earlier part of this chapter in matters of religion and politics men can get pretty worked up and emotional. This seemed to have happened here.

v.44 "AND SOME OF THEM WOULD HAVE TAKEN HIM; BUT NO MAN LAID HANDS ON HIM."

The very division that was created seems to have kept the people from trying to take him then. One group wants to make him king and the other to kill him as an imposter and they balance and cancel out each other, avoiding a conclusion. And there were other reasons as well as the following verses tell us.

John Chapter Seven

Read John 7:45-53 – Officers Refuse to Arrest Him

v.45 “THEN CAME THE OFFICERS TO THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND PHARISEES; AND THEY SAID UNTO THEM, WHY HAVE YE NOT BROUGHT HIM?”

The chief priests had sent officers to take Jesus; apparently they had finally decided to act even if the people were divided. Who were these officers? The same ones who ultimately did arrest him, but the chief priests and elders went along this time; probably to make sure that he was taken.

Luke 22:52 “THEN JESUS SAID UNTO THE CHIEF PRIESTS, AND CAPTAINS OF THE TEMPLE, AND THE ELDERS, WHICH WERE COME TO HIM, BE YE COME OUT, AS AGAINST A THIEF, WITH SWORDS AND STAVES?”

In some other translations these “CAPTAINS” are called the temple guard. We also find them in Acts Chapters 4 and 5 where they are the ones who arrest Peter and John. They served to keep order and acted as a police force under the chief priest and Sanhedrin.

v.46 “THE OFFICERS ANSWERED, NEVER MAN SPAKE LIKE THIS MAN.”

The officers listened to Jesus, they heard the authority in his voice, they heard the godly logic in his words, they recognized his power and understood that these words came from God just as Jesus suggested man should and John as Matthew also records.

“FOR HE TAUGHT THEM AS ONE HAVING AUTHORITY, AND NOT AS THE SCRIBES.” **Matthew 7:29**

v.47 “THEN ANSWERED THEM THE PHARISEES, ARE YE ALSO DECEIVED?”

These Pharisees seem to think that anyone who would even listen to the words of Jesus were seeking to be deceived. They opposed anyone whom they did not approve and they definitely did not approve of Jesus the Christ. Anyone who didn't think as they thought just must be so unsophisticated and gullible that they have been deceived. We have many in religion today, some even among our brethren who are of the same mind. The Pharisees ask:

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v.48 “HAVE ANY OF THE RULERS OR OF THE PHARISEES BELIEVED ON HIM?”

In order to solidify their position and perhaps intimidate these officers they asked this question. But in fact many did believe on Jesus:

John 12:42 “NEVERTHELESS AMONG THE CHIEF RULERS ALSO MANY BELIEVED ON HIM; BUT BECAUSE OF THE PHARISEES THEY DID NOT CONFESS *him*, LEST THEY SHOULD BE PUT OUT OF THE SYNAGOGUE.”

In fact, the time would come when many of the priests would be converted and added by God to the Lord’s church.

Acts 6:7 “AND THE WORD OF GOD INCREASED; AND THE NUMBER OF THE DISCIPLES MULITPLIED IN JERUSALEM GREATLY; AND A GREAT NUMBER OF THE PRIESTS WERE OBEDIENT TO THE FAITH.”

v.49 “BUT THIS PEOPLE WHO KNOWETH NOT THE LAW ARE CURSED.”

In the minds of these Pharisees those people who did not share their views of the law were ignorant, because of their ignorance they would be easily let astray and therefore when they were led astray they were accursed of God. An opinion commonly held by men with this mindset, even today. Let us always distinguish between opinion, or interpretation and the facts of scripture. Our Bible is its own best commentary. If we will indeed study thoroughly all of the scripture related to a specific subject, such as the necessity of baptism for remission of sins, it is awfully difficult to misunderstand the Word of God.

v.50 “NICODEMUS SAITH UNTO THEM, (HE THAT CAME TO JESUS BY NIGHT, BEING ONE OF THEM).”

This man Nicodemus was one of those believing rulers, he had visited and talked with Jesus (**John 3:1-15**) but he had to be very careful about how he went about trying to defend or sway their thinking away from what they wanted to do because of the situation that we just covered. So he turns to the facts of God’s word to deter them because this was a “safe” argument:

v.51 “DOTH OUR LAW JUDGE *any* MAN, BEFORE IT HEAR HIM, AND KNOW WHAT HE DOETH?”

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And the obvious answer is NO; even from the beginning when Moses turned the lesser judgments over to other men:

Deuteronomy 1:17 “YE SHALL NOT RESPECT PERSONS IN JUDGMENT; *but* YE SHALL HEAR THE SMALL AS WELL AS THE GREAT; HE SHALL NOT BE AFRAID OF THE FACE OF MAN; FOR THE JUDGMENT *is* GOD’S: AND THE CAUSE THAT IS TOO HARD FOR YOU, BRING *it* UNTO ME, AND I WILL HEAR IT.”

v.52 “THEY ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HIM, ART THOU ALSO OF GALILEE? SEARCH, AND LOOK: FOR OUT OF GALILEE ARISETH NO PROPHET.”

They immediately challenged Nicodemus; and he’s treading on dangerous ground asking if he was also of Galilee and or a follower of this Galilean. Their own ignorance is open to our view here:

First Jesus was not of Galilee by birth but of the city of David (Bethlehem) and of the tribe of Judah because as the scribes and priests quoted the prophecy to Herod:

Matthew 2:6 “AND THOU BETHLEHEM, *in* THE LAND OF JUDAH, ART NOT THE LEAST AMONG THE PRINCES OF JUDAH: FOR OUT OF THEE SHALL COME A GOVERNOR, THAT SHALL RULE MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.”

Secondly there were prophets that came out of Galilee:

II Kings 14:25 “HE RESTORED THE COAST OF ISRAEL FROM THE ENTERING OF HAMATH UNTO THE SEA OF THE PLAIN, ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL, WHICH HE SPAKE BY THE HAND OF HIS SERVANT JONAH, THE SON OF AMITTAI, THE PROPHET, WHICH WAS OF GATHHEPHER.”

Gathhepher is located about 2 miles from Nazareth, definitely in Galilee at this time. This is the same Jonah that was sent to Nineveh. In addition the location of Elkosh, the home city of Nahum the prophet is placed by second century scholars in Galilee and Elijah was also from this region:

I Kings 17:1 “AND ELIJAH THE TISHBITE, *who was* OF THE INHABITANTS OF GILEAD, SAID UNTO AHAB, *as* THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL LIVETH, BEFORE WHOM I STAND, THERE SHALL NOT BE DEW NOR RAIN THESE YEARS, BUT ACCORDING TO MY WORD.”

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v53. “AND EVERY MAN WENT INTO HIS OWN HOME.”

With this the meeting broke up and everyone went home.