

Woodland Baptist Church
 February 2, 2014 - Morning Worship
 John 7:14-24 - The Feast of Booths, Part 2

1) READ JOHN 7:14-24

2) Verse 14-15 Christ's KNOWLEDGE of the Scriptures STUNNED the Jews

a) **14 About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. 15 The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?"**

i) **About the middle of the feast** - again, we see God's sovereign timing in that Jesus did not speak at the beginning or the end of the feast, but right in the middle, most likely at the peak of the feast.

ii) As Jesus taught the ways of God, the Jews 'marveled' and were astounded at his ability and knowledge of the Scriptures.

(1) How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?

iii) The same would be said later in the book of Acts about the Apostles:

(1) **Acts 4:13** -13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were **uneducated, common men**, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

iv) When the Jews say these words...studied, uneducated, common...what they mean is that these men had never been formally trained in the rabbinical schools - they had not learned Jewish systematic theology / oral traditions.

b) How did Jesus get this knowledge? How was able to teach with such authority from the Scriptures? Because he is a part of the Trinitarian God - in him **Colossians 1:18-20** -18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

3) **Verses 16-20** The TEST of being a TRUE teacher from God

a) **16** So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. **17** If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. **18** The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. **19** Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?” **20** The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?”

- i) **My teaching is not mine** - his teaching was straight from the Father.
- ii) **How do we know who is speaking for God and seeking God's will?**

- (1) They will recognize Christ as speaking with God's authority
- (2) They will not seek their own glory, but glorify God.

b) The Apostle John also wrote some letters that spoke to knowing who was from God and how to tell if you were truly born of God.

- i) **1 John 1:8** -8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- ii) **1 John 2:3-6** - 3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.
- iii) **1 John 2:9-11** - 9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him[b] there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.
- iv) **1 John 2:15-16** -15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.
- v) **1 John 4:1-3** -Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not

confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

c) **19 Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?" 20 The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?"**

i) Jesus provides living, present example - Jews - the Jews were given the law of God, yet none of them keep it and evidence that you are not keeping it is your willingness to break the 6th commandment - "thou shalt not kill," by wanting to kill me.

d) When Jesus exposed what was in their heart, they explode with accusation and name calling - "You have a demon!" "Who is seeking to kill you?"

i) Christ calls them on their sin - he blew the lid off their secret desire to have him eliminated - to kill him...and he reminds them of when it started.

4) **Verses 21-24** The Father's mercy is SUPREME over SABBATH laws

a) **21 Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. 22 Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. 23 If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? 24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."**

i) **I did one work and you all marvel at it** - what is Christ speaking of? Go back to chapter 5, the healing of the invalid at the pool of Bethesda - it was on the Sabbath, Christ healed him and later began to equate himself with the Father which deeply provoked the Jewish leadership to want to kill him.

(1) **John 5:18** -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.

ii) **Matthew 9:13** - "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

- b) Christ does something very clever, he turns the debate back on the Jewish leadership by pointing out their willingness to make “exceptions” to their own sabbath laws/oral traditions for the act of circumcision:
- i) **22 Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. 23 If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? 24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”**
- (1) Christ points out that if a baby boy’s eighth day of life, the day he is supposed to be circumcised according to the Scriptures, falls on a Sunday, they will ignore the rules about not working on Sunday and circumcise the child to maintain the rite of circumcision given to Abraham as a sign of the promise.
- (a) Christ’s point is if they will break their laws to circumcise someone, why are they angry with him because he healed a man’s entire body? Honestly, there is no comparison any way you look at it.
- c) **“Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment”** - that would be a great passage to memorize and carry around to through out at people when they say, “Judge not, lest ye be judged”we could say...”do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgement.”
- i) Theses Jewish leaders were miss-judging Christ, they are using the wrong standard to apply to judging him, therefore they are wrong.
- ii) **Romans 12:3** - For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with **sober judgment**, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

5) CLOSE

- a) So as we consider these passages today how to we receive them? First, how is our knowledge of God, through Christ and the Scriptures?
- b) To learn how we tell a true teacher from a false one - is he for his own glory or God’s?
- c) Understanding God’s true supremacy over traditions.