

## Non-Belief and Legalism

John 7:1-24 <sup>1</sup> After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. <sup>2</sup> Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. <sup>3</sup> So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. <sup>4</sup> For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." <sup>5</sup> For not even his brothers believed in him. <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. <sup>7</sup> The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. <sup>8</sup> You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come." <sup>9</sup> After saying this, he remained in Galilee. <sup>10</sup> But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private. <sup>11</sup> The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, "Where is he?" <sup>12</sup> And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, "He is a good man," others said, "No, he is leading the people astray." <sup>13</sup> Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him. <sup>14</sup> About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. <sup>15</sup> The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?" <sup>16</sup> So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?" <sup>20</sup> The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?" <sup>21</sup> Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. <sup>22</sup> Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. <sup>23</sup> 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? <sup>24</sup> Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

### ❖ Introduction

- **Children**
- **Recap**
  - Ch 4 The Woman at the Well
  - Ch 5 Healing the Lame man on the Sabbath
  - Ch 6 Feeding of the 5,000 men
- **Today's Sermon**
  - Loving and Hateful Non Belief are the Same
  - Jesus Is on His Own Time
  - The World Hates Jesus
  - His Declaration of Evil Causes the World's Hate
  - Muttering About Jesus
  - You will know the Truth if Your Will is God's Will
  - These Men Were Not Perfect, Yet they Judged
  - Judge Rightly, not by appearances

### ❖ Our Response to the Text

- Understand it
- Glory in it
- Apply it

### ❖ Notice:

- **How intentional and organized John is in the writing of this gospel...**
  - God inspired Him to make things so simple, yet so profound

- And throughout this narrative... this gospel... you see Jesus working and Healing...
- And then teaching...
- **Notice how intentional Jesus is about teaching those around Him about God**
  - How He was teaching even with the millions of people in mind that would later read His Words..
- **Notice how Phillipians 2:5-11 is playing out right before our very eyes... in the book of John**
  - **Philippians 2:5-11** <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- **God took on Human form to Serve us...**
  - And He is teaching men, and healing
  - And He is heading to the cross...
  - And this will be one of the main points of contention between Him and everyone else
    - Many of His followers got turned off by this kind of talk
    - The Jewish leaders would not accept a dead Messiah
    - And His closest disciples did not want to hear it...
  - Yet... It was His main reason for coming...

## ❖ **Loving and Hateful Non Belief are the Same**

- <sup>1</sup> After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. <sup>2</sup> Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. <sup>3</sup> So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. <sup>4</sup> For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." <sup>5</sup> For not even his brothers believed in him.
- **After This...**
  - **After He had been speaking in the synagogue about**
    - Being the bread of Life
    - And telling people they must eat his flesh and drink His blood
    - The Father does the drawing of people
    - Then many people left...
    - His words were offensive
    - But He said they are spirit and life
  - **During the Time of the feast of booths**
    - The Jewish People celebrated 3 feasts a year...
    - 3 Celebrations where God required all the men of Israel to appear before the Lord.
    - And it was mainly to commemorate what He did in establishing them as a nation
    - By bringing them up out of Egypt
    - By His own might hand....
  - **3 feasts**
    - Passover – Or Unleavened Bread – Death Passing over them
    - Pentecost – Ingathering – Celebrating the Harvest
    - Booths – Remember being in tents in the wilderness and God's hand of watching over them
      - ◆ During this time they would make booths, or tents to stay in and decorate them...
      - ◆ To remember God's work in delivering them out of Egypt
  - **Didn't want to be in Judea...**

- Galilee was in the Northern part of Israel...
- With Samaria in the Middle
- And the Judea region was in the South... where Jerusalem was...
  - ◆ Why didn't He want to be there...

➤ **Hateful Disbelief: The Jews were seeking to Kill Him...**

▪ **And Why? We see later**

- **John 7.24b...** "are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well?"

▪ **They were wanting to kill him because, in their eyes He broke the law of the Sabbath**

- By healing a man on that day...
- This is going to be a significant point in the text as we continue... so do not overlook this..

▪ **The Sabbath Law originally stated:**

- **Exodus 31:12-17** <sup>12</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, <sup>13</sup> "You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you. <sup>14</sup> You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. <sup>15</sup> Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. <sup>16</sup> Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. <sup>17</sup> It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.' "

• **Later on we see a man out working on this day... And not taking God's law seriously...**

- ◆ Or using that day to remember God's creation...
- ◆ He was picking up sticks... instead of worshipping God...
- ◆ He profaned the Sabbath day...
- ◆ So... He was put to death by being stoned

• **The Intention of the Sabbath was for people to observe a day of rest...**

- ◆ That was how God intended it...
- ◆ He wanted them to remember what He had done, and to rest from their work...
- ◆ It was a God exalting day...

• **Then... the Jewish people started making all kinds of rules as to how far you could walk**

- ◆ And what work was ok, and what wasn't, etc...
- ◆ They became very legalistic...
- ◆ And we will come back to that...

➤ **So, now you see why they wanted to Kill Him**

- They did not believe... so that they might be saved...

➤ **Loving Disbelief:**

- Vs 5... not even His brothers believed in Him
- These guys I believe loved their older brother, although it was probably tough growing up with God
  - Everything they did was measured up to Him
  - So, their may have been some animosity...
- But they did not hate Him....
- They just didn't believe in Him...
- They had seen His works though...

➤ **Loving and Hateful disbelief is still disbelief...**

- Either way they do not believe...

➤ **Believing in His power...**

- Is not believing in Jesus unto Salvation...

- **This is an important point to see...**
- Believing in the Power and might of God...
- And believing on Him for Salvation are not the same thing...
- **Millions around the world believe Jesus is Mighty and powerful... yet they remain in their sins**
  - Because they have not believed that He is the Substitute for their sins...
  - Unless a person see Himself as sinful and in need of someone to take away His sins...
  - He will remain in them...
  - **Expound**

#### ❖ **Jesus Is on His Own Time**

- <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to them, “My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. <sup>8</sup> You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come.” <sup>9</sup> After saying this, he remained in Galilee. <sup>10</sup> But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private.
- **Expound...**
  - **Time for what.... Being glorified... Their time is always here... Men live to be glorified**
    - Why do I say this... because they wanted him to show off...
    - And His time had not yet come...
      - ◆ Is in the context of Him knowing they were ready to kill Him...
      - ◆ And it wasn't time yet... so Jesus was holding off until time...
  - **Still preparing to die...**
    - And it is His death that will bring His greatest glory...
      - ◆ And salvation to me...
      - ◆ So even here we see Jesus looking forward to His own crucifixion...
- **Thank God this morning...**
  - That He put up with shame and contempt and death so we might live...
  - Let's not be like most men who live for their own glory... lets live like Christ and live for God's

#### ❖ **The World Hates Jesus b/c He shows them who they are**

- <sup>7</sup> **The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.**
- **They Hate Jesus...**
  - The World is in reference to the people under the control of worldly influence...
  - With Satan as it designer...
  - The world is in opposition to God
- **His Declaration of Evil Causes the World's Hate**
  - They World wants to continue on doing what it wants to do...
  - The world wants to make war
  - And Have pride
  - And gain lands and money and possessions...
  - And a name for itself...
- **People make up the world...**
- **How many of you found that person that would try to do the right thing annoying...**
  - At some point in your life you had a friend that didn't follow the crowd...
  - And He or she would say... naa... I don't think it is right that we do this...
  - Or, I do not think we should watch that...
  - Or, I do not think we should be talking like that, or saying those kinds of things about others..
- **This could tend to annoy people...**
  - 1) because we didn't want to be told we were wrong... we felt judged... so this bothered us...

- 2) because it made us feel bad, cause we knew they were right...
  - But we were too weak to fight the crowd...
- **Take this annoyance and multiply it times a billion...**
  - And you get the hatred from the world toward Jesus because
  - He would testify that its works are evil... the world hates this..
- **Take an issue like:**
  - Sex before marriage: Tell the world its wrong...
  - Homosexuality (And we love... Homosexuals here... and want to see them come to Jesus)
    - But the venom that will come if you declare that to be evil in the sight of God...
    - Would make the air raid on pearl harbor look like childs play
  - Abortion... another major battleground...
- **The Bible is clear on these things, yet the world likes its works... and the world doesnt think its evil**
- **For the Christian follower of Jesus**
  - John 15:18-19 <sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

#### ❖ **Muttering About Jesus**

- <sup>11</sup> The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, “Where is he?” <sup>12</sup> And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, “He is a good man,” others said, “No, he is leading the people astray.” <sup>13</sup> Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him. <sup>14</sup> About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. <sup>15</sup> The Jews therefore marveled, saying, “How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?”
- **Muttering:**
  - 1) Say something in a low or barely audible voice, esp. in dissatisfaction or irritation.
  - 2) Speak privately or unofficially about someone or something; spread rumors.
- **The People were trying to figure Jesus out**
  - Some said a good man
  - Some thought He was leading people astray..
- **They were both wrong:**
  - They didn’t know Him... they didn’t know what they were talking about
- **Today: People are still trying to figure Him out...**
  - Sometimes if they can not figure Him out, they just make up their own Jesus...
  - And think they are safe because they call it Jesus...
- **One thing was true:**
  - He amazed people...
  - You see his teaching amazed them...
  - Because He never went and studied under a Master Teacher... yet He was more profound than any
- **Application:**
  - We need to stop muttering about Jesus... and Believe and Obey
  - Get in His Word and get to know Him. And Rejoice in His sayings

#### ❖ **You will know the Truth if Your Will is God’s Will**

- <sup>16</sup> So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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.
- **My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.**
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- <sup>17</sup> 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.
  -
- <sup>18</sup> 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.
  -
- **Summary:**
  - **If Anyone's will is to do God's will...**
    - Meaning... they want God to be first, and not themselves...
    - They are not worried about their own self glorification... or looking good for others...
    - But it is more important to them to do or be what God wants than to do or be what they want...
  - **This person will be able to see that what Jesus is saying it true...**
- **Application:**
  - If what Jesus is saying throughout this book is true... And there is no Falshood...
  - Then there should be a radically different lifestyle for all of us...
    - We saw what happened to the disciples...
    - They turned the world upside down...
  - **We are not even turning our homes upside down....**
    - Our lives are not reflecting the truth we say we believe in the Bible...
    - And it is embarrassing for the church of God today...
  - **If we believe the things Jesus says... Then we need to take them seriously...**
    - And I am not saying go be legalistic and do things...
    - I don't want you to be realistic...
  - **Just be serious about Jesus...**
    - And go to Him and tell Him... you are too weak on your own...
    - You want to be radically different but are too weak...
    - Ask for his help and I promise you... if you ask with a pure heart... He will help...
    - And do this every day... do not forget you need His help...

## ❖ These Men Were Not Perfect, Yet they Judged

- <sup>19</sup> Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?" <sup>20</sup> The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?" <sup>21</sup> Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. <sup>22</sup> Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. <sup>23</sup> 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?
- **They wanted to judge Jesus... but they had no right**
  - They wanted to kill Him for what they thought was a breaking of the law...
    - The funny thing is, He gave the law...
    - **Before Abraham was I Am** is what he will go on to tell them later...
- **2 Ways they had broken the law:**
  - 1) They sought to kill him...
  - 2) Circumcision on the Sabbath
- **Circumcision**
  - Was something God started with Abraham
  - Abraham would do this because it was a sign of a covenant b/w Abraham and God.

- No need to go into all the specifics...
- But this was to be done on the eighth day after the child was born...
- If this fell on the Sabbath... they did it anyway...
- So... one of the law had to be broken... right...
- **Jesus is just catching them in their own trap of inconsistent Legalism...**
  - They did not understand the heart of the law...
- **Jesus is trying to show them He is right, and He is the standard for what is right...**
  - He purposely healed that guy on the Sabbath... so He could challenge all of their faulty thinking...
  - And set their paths straight through His word...
- **Application:**
  - How often are we quick to judge others when our own house is not even close to being in order
  - I find it so funny at how easy it is for people to see the sin of others
  - But so hard to find their own sin...
  - **How mAny?**
    - Right now are picking out a person in your head that is like this... be honest...
    - See how easy it is... it proves the point...
    - We should be looking at ourselves...
    - Obviously it is easy to find people like that...
    - But the key for us... is to look and see if we do this...

#### ❖ **Judge Rightly, not by appearances**

- <sup>24</sup> **Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."**
- **We should apply this in all cases...**
- **But lets look at the specific case here...**
  - Jesus heals a man that had been lame for 38 years...
  - Sitting down by the pool for who knows how long, having to beg for food and money
  - Unable to do much work on his own
  - Seeing all the people walking by with their two legs... and praying he could do that...
- **This man was in pain and agony almost his whole life...**
  - And Jesus delivers Him...
  - Jesus has compassion and mercy on Him...
- **But the Jewish Leaders saw it as a law infraction...**
  - They thought it more important to keep the letter of the law, than to have compassion...
  - Look at what God had already said to them:
    - Matthew 9:13 <sup>13</sup> **Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."**
    - He gets this from Hosea 6.6
    - They had read it, but never got it....
- **Are you to hung up on Appearances?**
  - What people look like or sound like...
  - Instead of who they really are
  - It doesn't matter what thinks LOOK like... It matters what they ARE:
    - Now... do not take advantage of this and forget the perception is often reality to many people...
    - Do not haphazardly put a stumbling block before people... use your head...

#### ❖ **Invitation:**

- How is your belief?
- Do you stand for what is right... even though it may cause persecution?
- Are you legalistic? Do judge rightly?