

## Lighthouse Bible Church

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

John 7: 25 – 31      *Scripture reading 1<sup>st</sup> John 2: 3 - 11*

**'Do you really know Jesus'**

### **Stand – Read – Pray**

You remember that Jesus had come to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles and He initially came secretly so as to not be taken by the Jews who wanted to kill Him. The city of Jerusalem is filled with people from all over who have come to the celebration and have joined the people of Jerusalem to celebrate.

At about the middle of the Feast of Tabernacles Jesus goes into the temple and begins to teach the people publically the doctrine of God. He knows that the Jews want Him dead and He knows that what He says and does here will be moving Him closer to the cross and He speaks openly and publically because His time is coming.

He will not leave the Judea and Jerusalem area, He came there knowing that His time had come, He came there knowing that eventually He would be **arrested, persecuted, tortured, and killed** for what He has said and done. He came there because He wanted to redeem mankind from their sin by the shedding of His own blood.

As **Revelation 1: 5** says **He loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.** As **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 19** says **we were redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.** *And that is what we come to remember as we approach the table*

In light of the fact that Jesus knows that He is going to die, He enters the temple and publically begins to teach the people and confront the hypocrisy of the Jews. He told them earlier in Verse 19 that you don't know the law of Moses because you don't keep the law of Moses. You are spiritual hypocrites, He says.

He is saying these things, that are true by the way, about and to the religious leaders and in the hearing of the people and nothing is recorded about the religious leaders reaction and they do nothing to stop Jesus. Now can you imagine the common people who follow these leaders standing there listening to this and wondering what is going to happen. Well that takes us to Verse 25.

**Verse 25: Now some of them from Jerusalem said ‘is this not He who they seek to kill?’**

Some of the people in Jerusalem knew about the Jews plot to kill Jesus or they heard Jesus say that they are trying to kill Him, and now that He is there and in public and saying the things that He is to the Jews, they are not doing anything about it. So, the **some**, from Jerusalem have to ask **is this not He who they seek to kill?**

Isn't this, the one who claims to be from God in heaven and the only way to heaven and the one who violates the Sabbath laws that the Jewish leaders wanted dead because of His claims of equality with God and His rebuke of them?

They are in essence saying, ‘He is right there and He is saying these things about you and you are not saying or doing anything about it?’ Look at Verse 26

**Verse 26 but look, He speaks boldly and they say nothing to Him.**

It is as if the religious leader hear what is being said but are powerless do to anything about it and the people of Jerusalem see this. They say ‘He speaks boldly and they say nothing.’

This is the guy you want to kill and He is speaking publicly about you and you don't do anything? You want to know something; they couldn't do anything against Jesus because that would interfere with God's timetable, right?

This verse says that **Jesus spoke boldly**. In light of the fact that His life was in danger and there were people there who wanted Him dead. In light of the fact that he knew that His life was leading to the cross, He spoke boldly.

What a challenge for us today. Boldness in speaking the truth to our family, to our friends, to our co-workers, to total strangers ought to mark our lives as well. Not to be intimidated by anything or anyone, when it comes to preaching the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

That marked the life of Christ in the midst of the threats of death. It marked the disciples and apostles in the midst of threats of imprisonment, beating and death. It marked the life of the apostle Paul and it ought to mark our life as well. Just like Christ, no one can intimidate you or touch you until it is God's time, until He allows it.

Well, as the people are standing there listening to what Jesus is saying and seeing no reaction from the religious leaders; they say at the end of Verse 26 **do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ?**

Because of the non-reaction of the rulers, the religious leaders, the Jews, the people of Jerusalem ask the question 'do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ. Does their lack of response mean that they believe who He says He is?'

But the way the question is asked in the original language demands a negative answer. In other words they are saying 'do the rulers think this is the Christ, we don't think so, but why are they not saying or doing anything.' Then Verse 27

**Verse 27: However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from.**

So these people say ‘we don’t think this is the Messiah, the Christ, because we know where this Man is from. We know that He is the carpenter’s Son, we know He is from Nazareth, we know His family.

They are willfully ignorant of who Christ is and who He says He is because they are familiar with Him. But you know what they are not familiar with? The scriptures! Because if they had been, they would have known that Jesus is exactly who He says He is and there are a lot of Old Testament scriptures to support that.

That is exactly what they said to Jesus is **Matthew 13: 55 – 57** when they said **Is this not the carpenter’s Son? Is not His mother called Mary and His brothers and sisters, are they not all here with us. Where then did this Man get these things and so they were offended at Him.** In their ignorance they were offended at Him just like the ones in our passage here are.

And they say **when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from.** We know that Jesus came from Nazareth, we know His parents, we know His family so He can’t be the Christ, because when the Christ comes no one will know where He is from.

Where did they come up with that? The Old Testament scriptures made it very clear that the Christ would come from Bethlehem according to **Micah 5: 2.** Remember when the wise men came to Jerusalem after the birth of Jesus and asked king Herod in **Matthew 2: 2 – 6** ‘**where is He who is born king of the Jews?** And Herod called his chief priests and scribes and asked them about it and they quote Micah 5: 2 saying He would be born in Bethlehem.

Some of the people to whom Jesus is talking to knew this. Look at **John 7: 42**

If there was any question about Jesus being the Messiah, the Christ, why didn't they just ask Him where He was born? And if they didn't know where the Christ would come from, why didn't they just search the scripture to see what Micah 5 had to say about Him. They were ignorant of the scriptures and they were ignorant about who Christ was and where He came from.

It is not so different than today. People are ignorant of the scriptures and they are ignorant about Christ and yet they are very religious people and like the people to whom Jesus is talking, they are also lost in unbelief. They try to mold Christ into what they want Him to be or think He should be and you can't do that. You either accept Christ for who He is and conform your life to that or you do not.

Notice how Jesus responds to their ignorant, willful unbelief in Verses 28-29.

**Verses 28 - 29: Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying 'You both know Me and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. But I know Him for I am from Him and He sent Me.**

He responds, it says, by **crying out**. That word is used over 50 times in the New Testament and it means to literally scream in a loud voice. It was used on the people when Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on the donkey and they **cried out hosanna to the Son of David**. It was also used of the people **crying out, crucify Him**.

And in His crying out in the temple He says **you both know Me and you know where I am from**. What He is saying is 'you think you know Me but you really don't. You know Me in the earthly sense of My family and My growing up in Nazareth but you do not know Me in the spiritual sense.

Look at **John 8: 19** for a minute. There Jesus says **you know neither Me nor My Father, if you had known Me you would have known My Father also.** There He is saying that they don't know Him in the spiritual sense of who He really is and because they don't know Him, they don't know God either.

Isn't that true even today? People who say they know Jesus, but they really don't. When I share my faith I asked people 'do you know what Jesus did for you so that you wouldn't have to go to hell'? And many times they will say 'o yes, He died on the cross for Me'. They know Jesus but they don't know Him spiritually.

You can ask many people today if they know Jesus and they will say yes and if you were to ask them how they know Him they would probably say 'He's my best friend', 'He's love', 'He's my helper', 'He's my everything', 'He's my guide' 'He's my ... whatever. But you don't know Him as your Lord and Savior and Master, because you don't want to give up that place in your life.

Then Jesus says to them **I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know.** Jesus says 'I'm not here for Myself, I'm not here to do My will I am here to do what the Father has sent Me to do because He is true. And you have no idea who God is, **you don't know Him.**

That would have been a slap in the face for those Jews because they prided themselves in knowing God and knowing the scriptures; and Jesus says you don't know either. As we have seen before, if you don't know Jesus then you don't know God. If you won't come to Jesus then you can't come to the Father.

What an indictment against their religion and their religious system and the religious leaders of Christ's day. But it is an indictment against the religious people of our day as well.

Those who don't know Christ and consequently don't know God and yet they go into churches week after week and worship what they do not know and draw near with their mouth but their hearts are far from Him and their worship is in vain. Because they don't know Christ and they don't know God. You can not be saved in a religious environment like that.

You can know all you want about Jesus but if you don't know Him for who He truly is, and most other religions don't, then all your knowledge about Him is for nothing. It will do you no good. It is like knowing a lot of Bible verse and doing a lot of religious things and yet not having a converted heart. It has no eternal value whatsoever.

But before we get to smug in our Christian comfort zone, there is a problem in Christianity as well. One writer puts it best this way "We live in a culture where Jesus is a byword. Everybody knows Jesus. But nobody knows Him. Bibles all over the place, and nobody knows what's in them. Churches everywhere, and people don't know God and they don't know Jesus. So before you condemn the world, just look at the church. You know what the curse of Christianity is today? One word...ignorance. That is the greatest curse that we face in Christianity, trying to educate ignorant Christians. They can't reproduce themselves because they don't know what they are. They can't teach the Word of God because they don't know what they believe. They can't give some help to somebody because they don't know what the Bible teaches". He's right, ignorance is the curse of Christianity. *MacArthur GTY John.*

What does someone say to their children or their neighbor or their co-worker when they ask them a question about something they are going through or when someone asks; 'what does the Bible say about...? Can the show them from Scripture what God says about; homosexuality, government, parenting, divorce, dating, anger, love, suicide, hope, addictions etc. What do they tell them?

Some would say ‘well Dr. Phil had a great series on that yesterday’ or Ophra had so good advice about that; and they could tell you what day of the week it comes on and on what channel and all of that but they can’t even tell you where to find two verses on the Trinity, foundational to the Christian faith, to share with those who come to your door and say it isn’t in the scriptures.

That is why we are called in **Colossians 1: 9** to be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding that we may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him and being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

**Colossians 3: 16** says let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom

We are told in **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2: 15** to be diligent to present yourself approved to God a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

These are ignorant people to whom Jesus is talking to and yet they say they know Him and they know God when they really don’t. Paul said in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2: 2** that **I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.** He said in **Philippians 3: 10** that **I may KNOW Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings...**

These people to whom Jesus is talking don’t know Him and they don’t know God and it is evident by their unwillingness to follow Him and obey Him. Isn’t that what John says in **1<sup>st</sup> John 2: 3 - 4** now by **this we KNOW that we KNOW Him (how) if we keep His commandments. He who says ‘I KNOW Him’ and does not keep His commandments is a liar and the truth is not in Him.** That is the people to whom Jesus is talking to in our passage.

So notice how they react to that in Verse 30.

**Verse 30: Therefore they sought to take Him but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.**

There is that phrase again **His hour had not yet come**. They wanted to lay their hands on Him but they could not. They wanted to take Him because of His claim, once again, to be from God. Remember back in **John 5: 18** it says **therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him because He not only broke the Sabbath but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**

And that is what Jesus is doing here and they don't like it hear either. He says I know Him, I am from Him and I am going back to Him, and they **sought to take Him** but they couldn't. It's not His time yet. They wanted to have the officers arrest Him, as we shall see, but they can't; not until it is the right time and it won't be that time for about 6 months.

The sovereign hand of God was at work in the life of Christ so that as much as they wanted to take Him and kill Him, they couldn't. He is on God's divine timetable and nothing can change that, so until that time He will continue to preach and teach until the time is right for Him to be taken, but it is not now.

Think about that for your own life. As we have seen before, God is sovereign in every aspect of your life, you, as a believer, are on God's perfect timetable and nothing can happen to you until it is His time. You are invincible until God says otherwise. Your enemies can do nothing to you until God says so.

I think of Job and all that He went through in **Job 1 – 2** and yet Satan could do no more than what God allowed, right and only if God allowed it. **Proverbs 19: 21** says **there are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the Lord's counsel; that will stand.** He adds in **Proverbs 21: 30** **there is no wisdom or understanding or counsel against the Lord.** These Jews could plot all they wanted to, but they could not lay a hand on Jesus until His time was ready.

He still had to have His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. He still had to have His final Passover meal with His disciples. He still had to be betrayed by Judas for 30 pieces of silver. No, **His hour had not yet come.** It is the same way with you, you are invincible until it is God's time. But look at Verse 31

**Verse 31: and many of the people believed in Him and said 'when the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man does?'**

This is the grace and mercy side of the teaching in the temple that would bring some people to saving faith in Jesus. Just as some were being more hardened and agitated and angry at Jesus for what He was saying, others were being softened and prepared to receive the truth by faith.

It says **many believed in Him.** Many believed what He said about being the Son of God, the only way to Heaven and from the Father in heaven. And that caused them to ask a question **when the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man does?**

And the question is asked again in the original language to have a negative response. In other words they are saying 'when the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man does, certainly not'. They are saying 'can the Messiah, the Christ, do any more than this Man has done, we don't think so'.

These new believers are beginning to affirm who Christ is and defend Him in this public setting and it was causing quite a stir as **Verse 43** says 'so there was a division among the people'.

The problem was, that the Jews now have to contend not only with Jesus but those who have decided to follow Him. They have to do something quick and we will see what happens next week.

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Introduction and Review:

Revelations 1: 5, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 19

Verses 25 – 27:

Matthew 13: 55 – 57, Micah 5: 2  
Matthew 2: 2 – 6, John 7: 42

Verses 28 – 29:

John 8: 19, Colossians 1: 9  
Colossians 3: 16, 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2: 15  
1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2: 2, Philipians 3: 10  
1<sup>st</sup> John 2: 3 – 4

Verses 30 – 31:

John 5: 18, Job 1 – 2, Proverbs 19: 21  
Proverbs 21: 30

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