

A Study of John's Gospel

Lesson 10: Increasing Conflict, Part 2 (7:25-53)

“When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these?” (7:25-36)

As Jesus boldly spoke, the Jewish crowd was perplexed that the rulers had not already taken Him into their custody. Could it be that the authorities actually thought Jesus was the prophesied Christ? The dialogue continues with Jesus discussing His origin and where He is going. The Jews only knew Him on a fleshly relationship. They did not understand that Jesus was talking about His spiritual Father, to whom He said He will soon return.

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink” (7:37-44)

On the “great day” of the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus announces once again that He is the true giver of spiritual life. He spoke about “flowing rivers of living waters” referencing the day in which salvation will be made available to all man as a result of Him being glorified through the resurrection of the dead. The evidence is becoming clearer to some that Jesus is the Messiah and the discussion among the crowds becomes more focused upon details of specific prophecies.

“No man ever spoke like this Man!” (7:45-53)

When the officers, who were sent to arrest Jesus, returned empty handed, the Pharisees were frustrated. These temple guards had heard Jesus' persuasive testimony and were convinced of His innocence. The masters ridiculed the guards as having been deceived. One of their own, Nicodemus (the one who came to Jesus by night in John 3), challenged the Council not to judge Jesus until He is fairly heard. This is exactly what Nicodemus did when Jesus started His ministry by cleansing the temple. He too was ridiculed.

Questions:

1. What puzzled some of the Jews listening to Jesus (25-26)?
2. Where does Jesus say He was going and what conclusion had some in the crowd drawn (34-36)?
3. Compare what Jesus says in verse 38 to what He said to the Samaritan woman at the well (4:13-14).
4. What caused a division among the people concerning Jesus' birth (41-43)?
5. What question did Nicodemus raise (51)? How do Nicodemus' actions support the author's theme of the book?