

Reaction to the Incarnate Christ: A Public Display of Rejection

John 7:14-36

October 23, 2022

1. The Jewish Authorities Question the Authority of Jesus (14-24)

a. The Setting of Jesus' Teaching (14)

- i. The Feast of Tabernacles is half over when Jesus arrives and introduces Himself as the fulfillment of this feast (14a).
- ii. Jesus demonstrates His authority by going to the temple in Jerusalem to publicly teach right under the noses of those who sought to kill Him.

b. The Source of Jesus' Teaching (15-19)

- i. The Jewish Authorities question Jesus' teaching because He had no academic credentials (15).
 1. The Jews were obsessed with education and higher learning.
- ii. Jesus responds to their criticism by declaring the Source of His message (16-19).
 1. His teaching was not His own but belonged to the One Who sent Him (16).
 - a. The teachers of the day differentiated themselves with their own unique teachings.
 2. His teaching is perceived by those Who do God's will (17).
 - a. His message could only be perceived by those who demonstrated their understanding through faith filled obedience and not mere intellectual assent.
 3. His motive is the glory of the One Who sent Him (18).
 - a. The teachers of the day sought their own glory, but Jesus sought the glory of His Father.
 4. Jesus then exposes the Jews as breakers of the Law of Moses; they were plotting murder (19).
 - a. As the One sent from God, Jesus has the authority to expose our sinfulness.
- iii. Application: If Christ can claim that his teaching does not belong to him but to the One Who sent Him, how much more must the Christian declare likewise?

c. The Source of Jesus' Miracles (20-24)

- i. The people answer for the Jewish authorities adamantly disagreeing with Jesus' condemnation (20).
- ii. Jesus reminds them of the Jews response to the healing of the lame man on the Sabbath (21; cf. 5:16).
- iii. Jesus reminds the people that some laws take precedence over others such as the law of circumcision taking precedence over the law of the Sabbath (22)
- iv. Jesus demonstrates that the law of Moses was merely the shadow of the fulfillment yet to come (23).
- v. Jesus rebukes their refusal to accept the Law of Christ as the fulfillment of the Law of Moses (24).
 1. Many religious people today choose to live by the Law of Moses rather than the Law of Christ to the destruction of their souls.
- vi. Application: Jesus rebuked the Jews not only for their poor application of Scripture, but also for their faithless application of it. The goal of the Christian is to be rooted in the truth and to express that truth in our daily lives.

2. The People Question the Identity of Jesus (25-36)

a. The People Debate the Nature of Jesus' Origin (25-29)

- i. The people speak out in rebuke of the Jewish Authorities (25-26).
 1. Their response shows that they completely disbelieved in Jesus.
 2. Their response shows that they were shocked that the Jewish Authorities hadn't arrested Him.
- ii. In speaking of what they "know" the people display their ignorance as to the true identity of the One Who stands before them (27).
 1. They think they know the origins of Jesus.
 2. They are completely ignorant and/or unbelieving of Jesus' divine origin.

- iii. Jesus rebukes their unbelief by stating that they do not know His true identity because they do not know the One Who sent Him (28-29).
 - 1. To know God is to know Jesus and to know Jesus is to know God (cf. 1:18).
 - 2. To refuse Jesus is to refuse God and to accept Jesus is to accept God (cf. 20:31).
- iv. Application: The only way to know God is to grow in our knowledge of Jesus.
- b. Jesus Controls the Confusion and Confrontation (30-32)
 - i. Though the Jews sought to arrest Jesus, they were unable to do so (30).
 - 1. Though the Jews refused to accept Jesus' person, they could not overcome His power.
 - ii. Some of the people began to associate Jesus with the Prophet that they believed would precede the Messiah (31).
 - 1. They recognized Jesus as supernatural, but not yet as divine.
 - iii. The Pharisees and chief priests sent the temple guard to arrest Jesus to no avail (32).
 - 1. Jesus is in complete control of the timing of His arrest.
 - iv. Application: Though this world seeks to destroy all who follow Christ, the world cannot stop the mission of Christ from advancing.
- c. Jesus Reveals the Nature of His Mission (33-36)
 - i. Jesus warns them that their time of opportunity is short (33-34).
 - ii. The Jewish Authorities respond with contempt (35-36).
 - 1. They sarcastically accuse Jesus of spreading His message to the Gentiles (35).
 - a. They expose their wicked hearts while unintentionally revealing the loving heart of God for all mankind (cf. 3:16).
 - 2. They mock Jesus' claim to go to a place they were unable to go (36).
 - a. Jesus was returning to His Father in heaven, a place they could not go apart from Him.
 - iii. Application: Seize your opportunity to trust Christ, because one day, He will be eternally inaccessible. If you reject Him, God will turn His attention to those whose hearts are open to Him.

Conclusion:

- 1. What is your response to Jesus?
- 2. Christian, are you following Jesus' example of offering the message of the gospel to everyone, even to those who outwardly oppose Him?