

Sound Judgment

John 7:1-52

Key Verse: 24

1. Read verses 1-5. Why did Jesus travel in Galilee, not in Judea? Why did the Jews want to kill him? (5:17,18) What is the time? What did Jesus' brothers urge him to do? What does it mean that they did not believe in him? Read verses 6-9. What reason did Jesus give for not going to the Feast? Why did Jesus' brothers think that this was the right time for Jesus to go to Jerusalem? How was Jesus' time sense different from theirs? Why did the world hate Jesus, but not his brothers?
2. Read verses 10-13. What did Jesus do after his brothers left? Why the secrecy? What were the people at the Feast already saying about Jesus? Why did they not talk about him openly? Read verses 14-19. When and where did Jesus make a public appearance? Why were the Jewish leaders surprised at his teaching? What were their criteria for judgment? How could Jesus teach with authority?
3. Read verses 16-17 again. How can one know if Jesus' teachings are really true, i.e., really from God? What are the two kinds of teachers mentioned here? What is the difference between one who speaks on his own and one who works for the honor of God? (18) Read verses 19-24. How did Jesus rebuke the Jews? What laws were they guilty of breaking? (19,22-23) What was the one miracle Jesus did that astonished them? (5:8-10) According to them, how did Jesus break the Sabbath law?
4. What did Jesus say about the Jews' judgment on himself? What did he mean by "appearances"? What is the true standard of judgment? How can I live on a spiritual level rather than on a worldly level? Read verses 25-31. How did people begin to respond to Jesus' public teaching in the temple courts? (14) Why did some say that he is the Christ and other say that he is not? What did he say about himself? Why did they try to seize him and why could they not?
5. Read verses 32-36. Who sent temple guards to arrest him and why? What did Jesus say? What did he mean? What did the Jews think he meant? Read verses 37-38. What invitation did Jesus give on the last day of the feast? Who is he that he could make such an offer? To whom was his invitation given? What does it mean to be thirsty? (Compare Isaiah 55:1-3)
6. What does Jesus promise to those who come to him and drink? Upon what did he base his promise? What did Jesus mean by this promise? How does Jesus satisfy the spiritual thirst of those who come to him? Read verse 39. Why had the Spirit not yet been given? When and how would this promise be fulfilled? Why? To whom is the Spirit given?
7. Read verses 40-52. What was the divided opinion about Jesus? Why did some believe and some reject? Why did the guards not arrest Jesus? How and why did the Pharisees rebuke them? What was Nicodemus' suggestion? How had he changed since chapter 3? What was the response to this suggestion? What can we learn here?