

## **Can the Finite Advise the Infinitely Wise God?**

John 7:1-15 (vv.3-5)

Facilitator: Rev Vera Rhyne

### **I. Biblical Context and Historical Background**

What advice can the finite offer the infinitely Wise God? What wisdom and knowledge does the finite have that were not given by the infinitely Wise God? God is all powerful (Omnipotent). Man has no power except what is given by God. God is all knowing (Omniscience). What knowledge does man has beyond what God has given him? God is all present (Omnipresence). God is everywhere present all at the same time. How many places can man be at any given time? Man is physically limited in being in only one place at any given time.

God is Self Existent but man cannot exist without God. In Genesis 2:7, the Bible says, “Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” God created all things, and by His will they were created and have their being. **God is all righteous and holy.** Revelation 4:8, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” “All men have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23). God provided the Way for man to be redeemed and reconciled back to Him through Jesus Christ His only begotten Son Who lived, died, rose from the grave, and ascended into heaven. “Jesus Christ the Way and the Truth and the Life” (John 14:5). **So, what advice can the finite offer the infinitely Wise God?** What advice can the finite offer the Sovereign and everlasting God? The conclusion of the matter is: Nothing.

### **II. The Lesson: Can the Finite Advise the Infinitely Wise God?**

#### **1. v. 1: Jesus still in Galilee**

After this, the previous chapter of John, many of Jesus’ disciples had grumbled about His teaching because they did not believe in Him. They deserted Him and went their own way. The twelve disciples that He had chosen, even though one who was a devil, were still with Him. Jesus was still in Galilee because He did not want to go to Judea. He knew that the Jewish leaders wanted Him to show up because they were looking for a cause to kill Him. The Jewish

leaders were always looking for opportunities to kill Jesus but until it was God will and timing, it was not going to happen.

## 2. v. 2: Festival of Tabernacles

The Festival of Tabernacles, also called The Festival of Booths, was drawing near and taking place in Judea. The **Festival of Tabernacles** was one of the major festivals of the Jews. In Leviticus 23:33-36; 39-44 and Deuteronomy 16:13-17, this festival was one of the appointed festivals of the Lord in remembrance of the temporary shelters that the Israelites lived in during their wilderness journey. They traveled from near and far to attend every year. These festivals were very significance in the lives of the Jews. It is good to always remember where the Lord has brought you from. When we partake of the bread and juice every third Sunday, it reminds us of what the Lord has done for us. It reminds us of the bondage of sin we once knew but now the liberation we have because of Jesus Christ. It's because of God's grace and mercy.

## 3. vv. 3-5: Unsound Advice

Jesus' brothers (James, Joseph, Simeon and Judas) offer to Him so unsound advice, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works of you do."

### **Can the finite advice the infinitely wise God?**

This was unsound advice for more than one reason. Jesus had been doing the works of His Father since the beginning of His ministry. **In Chapter 2**, He changed water to wine. **In Chapter 4**, He healed a certain royal official's son. **In Chapter 5**, He healed a man who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. **In Chapter 6**, He fed five thousand with a boy's lunch of five small barley loaves and two small fish. *Were the brothers speaking about the disciples who grumbled about Jesus' teaching and then deserted Him due to their unbelief in Him?* Jesus never did anything to draw attention to Himself. He was the Word with God, and the Word that was God. He was the Lamb of God that took away the sins of the world.

- **Their advice was unsound because they did not believe in Jesus.** They did not come to believe in Jesus until His resurrection.

- **Their advice was unsound because they wanted Jesus to go to Judea to exert His influence through the display of works.** They advised Jesus to show Himself to the world. Jesus was not an actor nor a performer.

What we do for the Lord should never be about bring glory or attention to ourselves.

What we do or say should be done for the glory and honor of our God.

We have to be very careful and discerning when giving and receiving advice.

In our world today, we see newspapers' advice columns, people in the advice business, and books on advice. **The best advice is in the Word of God.** The best advice is prayer over what has been given. The best advice is to know from whom you are getting advice. Not all advice is good advice.

### **Can the finite advice the infinitely wise God?**

#### **4. vv. 6-9: My Time is not yet here**

Jesus informed His brothers that His time is not yet here. Jesus knew His purpose for coming into this world. He knew that when time has fully come that He offer up His life for the salvation of everyone who would receive Him as Savior. He did not operate outside the will of the Father. He was fully committed and submitted to the will of His Father. John 6:38, "Jesus said, "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of Him Who sent me." He told them to go to the festival but that He would not be going with them because His time has not fully come. He was not about gaining popularity nor to influence people with His works. Jesus did not leave Galilee at that time.

#### **5. vv. 10-13: Jesus shows up**

After the brothers had left for the festival, Jesus went to the festival not publicly but secretly. Jewish leaders were watching and asking the question, "Where is He?" **The people were divided in their opinions about Jesus.** The crowds were busily engaged in whispering about Him. Some were saying, "He is a good man"; while others were saying, "He deceives the people." They were whispering because they didn't want the Jewish leaders to hear in fear of some sort of punishment.

**You can't always follow crowd.** You have to know Jesus for yourself. When you know Him for yourself, you don't mind testify about Who He is and what He has done for you.

#### 6. vv. 14-15: Jesus Teaching in the Temple Courts

Jesus waited until halfway of the festival and then He went to the temple courts and begin to teach. The Jews were so amazed that they asked the question, "How did this man get such learning without having been taught?" How can Jesus be so educated without having formally studied. How can He teach like without the proper credentials – Master of Divinity, PHD in theology. What they didn't know that Jesus teaching authority was higher than any man's recognition or credentials. **His authority was from God. He was and is the Word.** That's why they were always amazed with His teaching. He taught with boldness and authority. **He is the Word teaching them about the Word.** In John chapter 1, the Bible says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

**Can the finite advice the infinitely wise God?**