

Topic/Subject: There shouldn't be Falsehood in the Man of Truth

Scripture: John 7:14 – 24 (Background Scripture: John 5:31-47)

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I. Biblical Context and Historical Background

To fully understand this context of this text, we need to look back at John 5. This text tells us about the healing of the impotent man at the healing pool. That miracle was done on the Sabbath and was regarded by the Jewish authorities as a breach of that day. In his defense Jesus quotes the writing of Moses and said that they really knew that what these writing meant and really believe them, they would also believe in him. The chapter conclude with “if you believe in Moses, you would have believed in me, because he wrote about me. If you do not believe in his writings, how will you believe in my words?”

John 7:14 – 24, we find the celebration of the feast of the Tabernacle. This is a weeklong celebration or autumn festival. Halfway through the festival Jesus goes up to the temple and began to teach. Jesus teaches with great authority and the people are amazed. Then they realize that Jesus is the man that the authorities are looking to kill. How is that he is able to stand in the temple and teach freely without being arrest. Could it be that the authorities realize that he is the Messiah?

Wait a minute, we know him. We know where he come from. We know what he does. How could he be the messiah, when we are not supposed to know where he comes from? Where did he get this learning without being taught? In out text today, Jesus deals with this issue and points to God and shows us where our authority comes from when we trust and believe the word of God.

II. The Lesson: There Shouldn't be Falsehood in the Man of Truth

1. Verses 1- 18:

The people were amazed at Jesus teaching; however, they began to question how is he able to teach with so much authority when he is uneducated. Jesus address their concerns by stating that his teaching are not his own, but that of the one who sent me. Anyone who is willing to do God's will, will understand that his (Jesus) teaching comes from God and not himself. Anyone who speaks from another source beyond himself is out for his own glory. However, anyone who seeks glory from the one that sent him is true, and there is no wickedness in him. The accusation about Jesus was that he was not educated. It is the same accusation that was made against Peter and John when they stood before the Sanhedrin court (ACTS 4:13). Jesus hadn't been to a rabbinic school, and it was the custom of that day that a disciple study under an accredited teacher to be able to expound upon the scriptures. Note: no rabbi would dare speak on their own authority. He would always begin by saying "There is a teaching that....." He would then state the scripture. Here Jesus had not receive any formal (man) teachings quoting the writing of Moses.

Jesus could walked into a trap here if he had stating that his teaching are his own. Instead he states the following, "You want to know who my teacher is? Where do I get my authority to expound on the scriptures? My authority comes from God!" Jesus claimed to be God taught. It is a fact or claim that he makes again and again. "I have not spoken on my own authority. The father who sent me has himself given me authority on what to say and what to speak." (John 12:49) "The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority." (John 14:10).

Jesus goes on to further lay down the truth. Only the man who does God's will can truly understand his teachings. That is not a theological truth but a universal truth. For example, a doctor can study how to perform surgery from text books, but it is not until he actually perform a surgery that he become a surgeon. He has to learn by doing.

The same would apply to Christian life. If we wait until we have full understanding of everything, we will never start at all. But if we begin by doing Gods' will as we know it, God's truth will become clearer and clearer to us. We

learn by doing. IF a man says “I cannot be a Christian because there is so much to learn of the Christian doctrine that I do not understand, and I must wait until I understand it all,” the response should be “You will never understand it all, but if you start trying to live a Christian life, you will understand more and more as the days go by.

2. Verse 19 -24

Here is a rhetorical question, how could they condemn Jesus for breaking the Law of Moses, when they themselves were such notorious breakers of the law. The Jews had the privilege of have the Law of Moses in their possession to study and live by it. However, they seldom followed the law and often rebelled against it. They boasted that they had the law and pretended to have a passion for the law and was outraged when Jesus broke the law according to their understanding. Jesus points this out to them by stating that “you have the law, but you don’t follow it. Why do you want to kill me for breaking that law that you don’t keep?”

The people immediately defended their leaders by stating “Are you possessed by a demon? Who is trying to kill you?” Their opinion of their rulers that Jesus accusing them of trying to kill him. The thought to them was ludicrous. Why would they do such a thing to an innocent man? Thus, they accuse him of lying. Then Jesus appeals to their practice in other instances, by stating “I did one miracle and you were all amazed.” Jesus was referring to the healing of the impotent man by the pool of Bethesda (John 5:8-13). He then compares the circumcision that is normally performed on the Sabbath. He said this act was the same thing.

Moses gave the people both the law and the circumcision. The circumcision was a symbol for being yoked with God, given to them by God through Abraham (Genesis 17:12). Moses required every male to be circumcised when they were in the desert after leaving Egypt. Although it was incorporated with the Mosaic Law, it was actually given to Abraham long before.

- a) The law concerning the circumcision was given as a covenant between God and the Israelites.

- b) The circumcision was above the Sabbath. The circumcision (work) was okay to be perform on the Sabbath, but it was not cool for Jesus to heal on the Sabbath.

Jesus concludes with a rule, “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge correctly.” Those things that are false and designed to be imposed on man, are common appear best when they are judged based on their appearance or are prima facie false. It was the appearance of the Pharisees that the people viewed as being correct; however, when we pull back the covers and look at the details, we see them as they really are.

Final thoughts: