

“Judge Righteous Judgment”
John 7:14-24

Introduction:

1. By All Accounts:
 - We Live In A Very Superficial World!
 - That Is - We Base Our Impressions:
 - On External Things!
 - Things We Can Either See Or Hear!
 - This Is Especially True:
 - In The Western World:
 - Where We Live According To:
 - Democratic Principles!
 - Because - Often Times - Truth & Success:
 - Is Based On:
 - How Many People You Can See:
 - Supporting Your Cause!
 - Polls / Elections / “Majority Rules!”
2. Well - It Was Into This Superficial World:
 - Jesus Came;
 - As We’ve Been Learning About:
 - Through The Gospel Of John!
 - So - Let’s Turn Back There This Morning:
 - To John 7!
 - But - When Jesus Came:
 - Based On The Superficial & External Judgment:
 - Of This World:
 - Jesus Was Not:
 - A Success!
 - Now - Even Though:
 - His Words & Works Made An Impression On Many!
 - Both Positive & Negative!
 - In The End:
 - It Seemed Like They Left Little Impact On The World Around Him!
 - After All - When He Left This World:
 - He Left It Alone:
 - Hanging On A Roman Cross:
 - Outside Jerusalem!
 - He Had Been Forsaken:
 - By His Own “Familiar Friends!”
 - From Psalm 41!
 - And Even, For A Time, By:
 - His Own Father!
3. And So - To Most Of The World:
 - Jesus’ Mission To This World:
 - Was A Failure!
 - And - Sadly - Sometimes:
 - This May Still Feel This Way:
 - Even To Those Of Us Who Claim To Believe In Him:
 - And Follow Him!
 - When We Think Like The World Thinks:
 - In Superficial Ways:
 - We Too Can Start To Wonder About:
 - The Power & Impact:
 - Of Jesus’ Words & Of Jesus’ Work!
 - And - When This Happens:
 - We Can Even Try To Help Jesus:
 - With Other Alternatives:

- To Make Him Look Like A Success To This World!
- So - Instead Of Proclaiming:
 - The Words Of Christ:
 - We Try To Appeal To The World:
 - By Means Of:
 - The Words & Methods Of Men!
 - Solomon Was Right When He Said:
 - In Ecclesiastes 12:2 - That:
 - “Of making many books there is no end!”
 - And So - Book After Book:
 - Has Been Written - Even By:
 - Well-Meaning Christians:
 - To Awaken & Stir People Up To The Things Of God!
 - And Even Though:
 - Books Are Good & Have Their Place:
 - They Must Never Take The Place Of The Words Of God & Christ!
 - Because They Alone - 6:63 - “Are Spirit” And “Are Life!”
- Also - Instead Of Relying Upon:
 - The Work Of Christ:
 - To Change The Lives Of People:
 - From The Inside Out - Starting With The “Hidden Man Of The Heart!”
 - We May Think That Change Can Be Brought About:
 - Through Different Programs Or Techniques:
 - And - Even Fads!
 - And Though Sometimes It May Seem Like Its Working:
 - Because Of The Numbers / Even Reform:
 - Is It Truly The Work Of Christ?

4. When We Are Tempted To:

- Think Superficially:
 - About Spiritual Things:
 - We Need To Listen To:
 - What Jesus Says In Our Passage Today!
 - Because:
 - There Is No Greater Word - And:
 - There Is No Greater Work:
 - Than Christ’s Word & Christ’s Work! And:
 - We Need To Keep Our Faith & Focus On His Power & Purpose!
 - Not Our Own!

- Because - Starting In - John Tells Us:

- 7:14-24 - “Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. / And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? / Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. / If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. / He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him. / Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me? / The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee? / Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel. / Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man. / If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day? / Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment!”

5. According To Jesus’ Own Words:

- We Need To “Judge Righteous Judgment” - About Him!
 - About Christ - And His Words & His Works!
 - Because - There Is:
 - Nothing Greater Or More Powerful!
 - Do We Believe This Today?
 - For Your Life?

- For Your Friends / Family?
- For This World?

6. Well - In 7:14:

- When Jesus Finally Went Up To:
 - The Feast Of Tabernacles:
 - Where His Brothers Wanted Him To Go:
 - As We Saw Last Week!
 - But - Jesus Would Only Go:
 - According To:
 - The Timetable Of God The Father:
 - And Noone Else!
- So - When Jesus Went Up To:
 - The Feast Of Tabernacles:
 - It Was Clearly When:
 - His Father Wanted Him To Go!
 - And He Arrived - "About The Midst Of The Feast!"
 - The Feast Of Tabernacles:
 - Lasts 8 Full Days:
 - And On The Last Day - There Is A Special Celebration!
 - This Is Even Going On Right Now In Israel!
 - So - Somewhere In The Middle Of These Days:
 - Jesus Showed Up In The Temple!
 - "And Taught!" (7:14)
 - And - This Might Have Even Been:
 - On A Sabbath Day!
 - But - The Jewish Leaders:
 - Who Had Already Been Searching For Him:
 - In 7:11 - Heard That Jesus Was Back - And:
 - Had Already Gathered A Crowd:
 - In The Temple!
 - They Didn't Need To Go Out:
 - Looking For Jesus After All!
 - Because - Jesus Came Right To Them!
 - But - According To God's Purpose & Plan - Not Man's!

7. And - As We Gather Around Jesus:

- With Them This Morning:
 - I Want You To See - In A Fresh New Way:
 - That There Truly Are:

1. ***No Greater Words Than Jesus' Words!***

- And - This Is What We Find Again:
 - In 7:15-18! Because:
 - As The Crowd Listened To Him:
 - They Noticed:
- The Difference Of His Words!
 - According To 7:15:
 - "And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?"
 - Now - Most Jewish Boys In Israel Those Days Were Taught:
 - To Both Read And Write!
 - So - They Were Not Commenting About Jesus' Literacy In Hebrew!
 - Rather - They Were Surprised About His Literacy In The Scriptures!
 - Jesus Teaching Was Very:
 - Clear & Compelling!
 - In Matthew 7:29 - We Are Told That:
 - The "People Were Astonished At His Doctrine: For He Taught Them As One Having Authority, And Not As The Scribes!"
 - So Often - When The Scribes Taught:
 - They Would Base Their Words:

- On The Authority Of Other Teachers - Who Were Considered:
 - Experts In God's Law!
- But - When Jesus Taught:
 - He Did So Based On:
 - His Own Authority:
 - As The Son Of God!
 - Matthew 5:22 - "I Say Unto You!"
- So - The Words Of Jesus:
 - Were Different!
 - To The Point That The Jews:
 - "Marveled!"
 - This Doesn't Necessarily Mean:
 - That They Were Impressed By His Words!
 - But - His Words Did Leave:
 - An Impression!
- Perhaps There Were Some There:
 - Who Were Curious About:
 - This New Teacher From Galilee!
 - But That Curiosity Grew Into:
 - Concern - Because He Had "Never Learned" From Them & Their Schools!
- So - Their Reaction Was Likely:
 - More Out Of Rivalry - Than:
 - Of Respect! **IE:** Like School Rivalries Even Today! High School / College / IU & Purdue!
 - But - The Words Of Jesus Were:
 - Vastly Different Than:
 - Any Words They Had Ever Heard Before! And:
 - They Still Are!
 - But - They Were Different:
 - Mostly - Because Of:
- The Doctrine Of His Words!
 - In 7:16 - We Are Told Once Again That:
 - "Jesus Answered Them!"
 - The Question They Asked:
 - Was Not Even Directed To Jesus!
 - But - Jesus Knew What Was In Their Minds & Hearts:
 - And Answered Accordingly!
 - So - 7:16-17 - "Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. / If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself!"
 - Jesus' Answer About:
 - His Teaching - Was Actually:
 - A Challenge About:
 - The Truth!
 - What The Jews Needed To Do:
 - Was Consider:
 - Not The System:
 - Of His Training!
 - What School He Went To!
 - But The Source:
 - Of His Teaching - And:
 - Its Truth!
 - Because - His "Doctrine" Was Not:
 - His Own! He Was Just:
 - The Messenger Of:
 - The "One Who Sent" Him!
 - Of God The Father Himself!
 - And Then - He Makes This Surprising Statement:

- In 7:17! If They Were:
 - “Willing To Do His Will!”
 - That Is - God’s Will!
 - They - They Would Know The Truth Of His Teaching!
- Leon Morris - “His Hearers Raised The Question Of His Competence As A Teacher! He Raises The Question Of Their Competence As Hearers!”
- This Was The Real Problem They Had:
 - With Jesus & His Words!
 - They Did Not Truly:
 - Want To Do God’s Will!
 - They Wanted To Do:
 - Their Own Will!
 - And So - When Jesus Confronted Them:
 - With God’s Will Through His Words:
 - It Was Completely Foreign To Them!
- And This Is Still The Problem:
 - That The World Has With:
 - The Words Of Christ!
 - Instead Of Questioning:
 - Jesus & His Words!
 - They Need To Question:
 - Their Own Hearts & Will!
- And - The Man Or Woman:
 - Who - Deep Down - Truly Desires:
 - To Know & Do God’s Will:
 - Only Then Can You Know:
 - Whether Jesus’ Doctrine, 7:17 - “Be Of God, Or Whether I Speak Of Myself!” (Independent From God)
- But - When You Do “Will To Do God’s Will!”
 - You Will Hear Jesus - And:
 - Know The Truth Of His Doctrine!
 - That It Is Greater Than Any Other Word In This World!
 - But - Jesus Further Tells Us About:
- The Design Of His Words:
 - In 7:18 - “He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him!”
 - Though This Is A Principle:
 - That Can Be True About:
 - Any Speaker - Jesus Offers It As:
 - Another “Litmus Test” For Them - To Assess His Own Words & Ministry!
 - If Someone Speaks:
 - In An Independent & Autonomous Way:
 - Then It Is Clear That:
 - He Or She:
 - “Seeketh His Own Glory!” / Fame / Reputation!
 - But - If Someone Speaks:
 - In Agreement With:
 - The One Who Sent Them:
 - Then They Are Out For:
 - “His Glory That Sent Him” - And - Not Their Own!
 - Of Course - Jesus Has His Own Words In View!
 - And - The Design / Aim / Goal / Purpose:
 - Of Every Word He Spoke:
 - Was For the Glory Of His Father In Heaven! True For Us?
 - And - Since This Is The Case With Jesus:
 - 7:18b - “The Same Is True, And No Unrighteousness Is In Him!”
 - Isn’t This The Description Of Jesus:

- That John Gives Us In Revelation As Well?
- In Revelation 3:14 - Jesus Is Described As:
 - The “Faithful & True Witness!”
- And - In Revelation 19:11 - John Saw:
 - “Heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war!”
- And This Is How:
 - You Still Need To Assess & Judge:
 - The Words Of Christ!
 - They Are So Different:
 - Than This World’s!
 - But - That Is Because:
 - Their Doctrine:
 - Is From God! And:
 - Their Design:
 - Is The Glory Of God!
 - And - We Need To:
 - “Judge Righteous Judgment” About:
 - The Words Of Christ:
 - Still Today!
 - There Is Still:
 - A Power In Christ’s Words:
 - That Can Never Be Matched Or Duplicated By:
 - The Words Of Man!
 - After All - Hebrews 4:12:
 - “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart!”
 - No Other Words Can Do This!
 - But Christ’s Words Can & Do! Still!
 - And - Now - Keep Your Faith In & Focus On:
 - The Words Of Christ!
 - Because There Are No Greater Words:
 - Than His Words!
 - But Then - We Can Also See That There Are:

2. ***No Greater Works Than Jesus’ Work!***

- In 7:19 - Jesus - Rather Abruptly - Changes The Subject!
 - He Tells Them - “Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?”
 - So - Jesus Transitions From:
 - His Word To His Work:
 - Because - He Wants Us To See:
 - That He Seeks God’s Glory In Them Both!
 - Because - Noone Can Be Considered:
 - “Faithful & True” - If:
 - Their Works Don’t Match Their Words!
 - And So - Jesus Confronts Them:
 - About Their Own:
 - Unfaithfulness To:
 - The Truth Of:
 - God’s Word Through Moses!
 - If Moses Told Them:
 - “Thou Shalt Not Kill!”
 - And - They Believe In:
 - Moses & His Words As From God!
 - Then - Why Don’t They:
 - Obey Those Words?

- “Why Go Ye About To Kill Me!”
 - Jesus Knew All About Their Plots & Plans!
 - Seen In 5:16, 18; 7:1!
- How Does The Crowd Respond?
 - 7:20 - “The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?”
 - The People There Were Found Out!
 - And - As A Reaction To Jesus’ Awareness Of Them:
 - They Accuse Him With Being Possessed By A Devil!
 - This Is Blasphemy!
 - To Attribute God’s Own Words & Works:
 - To The Devil!
 - You Can’t Be More Hardened Than This!
 - Its Not That Different Than:
 - What You Can See On A Billboard Just A Few Miles Down The Road:
 - Where The Governor Of California Placed A Bible Verse:
 - Which Is Word Of Life:
 - To Promote His Own Work Of Death!
- Those Jewish Leaders Were:
 - Using God’s Written Word:
 - In Support Of Their Desire:
 - To Kill God’s Living Word:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - But Then - Jesus Draws Attention:
 - To His Own Work!
 - Which - Unlike Theirs:
 - Was Always Faithful & True To His Word!
 - And He Brings Out:
- The Difference Of His Work!
 - In 7:21 - “Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel!”
 - Of Course - By This Time In His Ministry:
 - Jesus Had Done Many “Wonderful Works!”
 - But - There Was One Specific One He Had In Mind:
 - That He Did In Jerusalem A Year Or So Before!
 - The Work Recorded For Us:
 - In Chapter 5 - When He Healed:
 - The Lame Man At The Pool Of Bethesda:
 - On The Sabbath Day!
 - When - Jesus Said To Him:
 - 5:8-9 - “Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. / And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked!”
 - And - It Was Because Of This Work:
 - That The Jewish Leaders:
 - “Marveled” - And - Were Astonished:
 - At When He Did This Miracle!
 - And Who He Claimed To Be By Doing So!
 - Jesus’ Work - Like His Words:
 - Was Different!
 - A Work Of Power & Authority!
 - But Then - Jesus Also Points Out:
- The Doctrine Of His Work!
 - In 7:22 - “Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man!”
 - The Jews Believed That:
 - There Was Nothing Greater Than:
 - The Words & Works Of Moses:
 - Because He Was God’s Messenger To Them!
 - And So - Even When It Came To:
 - The Matter Of Circumcision:

- They Believed They Had To Keep It:
 - Even If It Had To Be Done:
 - On The Sabbath Day!
- So - The Rite Of Circumcision:
 - Superseded:
 - The Laws Of The Sabbath!
- But - What They Seem To Have Forgotten:
 - Was That Circumcision:
 - Did Not Originate:
 - With Moses! But With:
 - “The Fathers!” Abraham!
- And - Jesus Points This Out:
 - Because He Wants Them & Us To Realize That:
 - Moses Just Followed After:
 - A Long Line Of Messengers:
 - From God! One Of Many!
 - But - There Would Be One:
 - Who Would Be The Final Messenger:
 - Who Would Fulfill All:
 - That Moses & The Other Messengers:
 - Had Been Given By The Lord!
- See This In Hebrews 1:1-2:
 - “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, / Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son!”
 - And This Is Why:
 - The Work Of Christ Is Greater:
 - Than The Works Of Any Other Man! Even Good & Godly Men Like Moses!
 - But Then - Jesus Describes Further:
- The Design Of His Work!
 - 7:23 - “If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?”
 - The Purpose & Design Of Circumcision:
 - Was To Separate A Man:
 - Unto The Lord:
 - Even By - Taking Away Something From That Man!
 - But - What About The Purpose & Design:
 - Of Christ & His Work?
 - It Was To Sanctify A Man:
 - And To - Make Him:
 - “Every Whit Whole!”
 - Not Just In Body:
 - But In Spirit & In Soul!
 - 5:14 - “Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee!”
 - And - Jesus Even Points Out:
 - That The Work Of Circumcision:
 - Was Given By God:
 - To Anticipate The Greater Work:
 - That Jesus Himself:
 - Came To Provide!
- And This Is Still How:
 - You Need To Assess & Judge:
 - The Work Of Christ!
 - They Too Are So Different:
 - Than The Works Of This World!
 - But That Is Because:
 - His Works Teach Us:

- How God Works!
- Inside Out!
- And - His Works Teach Us:
- Why God Works!
- “Every Whit Whole!”

Conclusion:

1. And So - Jesus Ends His Teaching:
 - In 7:24 - “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment!”
 - This Is A Good Verse To Remember:
 - When The World Quotes Verses Like:
 - Matthew 7:1 - “Judge not, that ye be not judged!”
 - Jesus Calls On Us:
 - To Make Judgments!
 - But - To Make Sound Judgments:
 - Based On What Is True & Right!
 - But - We Especially Need To Remember This Verse:
 - When We Are Faced With The Temptation:
 - To Judge “According To The Appearance” Of Things - When It Comes To:
 - The Things Of God!
2. Sometimes The “Appearance” Of Things:
 - Can Make The Words Of Christ & The Work Of Christ:
 - Seem Like They:
 - Have No More Relevance:
 - To Our Time - Or:
 - Have No More Power:
 - In Our Lives!
 - Other Words & Other Works:
 - Seem To Be More:
 - Effective & Bring About:
 - Greater Success!
 - But - What Are We Doing?
 - We Are Looking On:
 - The “Outward Appearance” Of Things!
 - But - What Does The Lord Look On?
 - God To Samuel - 1 Samuel 16:7 - “For the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart!”
 - And - The Heart Is:
 - Where The Lord Does:
 - His Work Through His Word!
 - 3. So - Again - 7:24:
 - “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment!”
 - “Judge Righteous Judgment” About:
 - The Words Of Christ!
 - That There Are No Greater Words:
 - Than His Word!
 - Than This Word!
 - Promise - Isaiah 55:11:
 - “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it!”
 - Also - “Judge Righteous Judgment” About:
 - The Work Of Christ!
 - That There Is No Greater Work:
 - Than His Work!
 - The Work Of Grace!
 - Promise - Ecclesiastes 3:14:

- "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him!"

4. "Judge Righteous Judgment" About:

- Christ! Don't Look For:

- Spiritual Success:

- In Superficial Ways!

- Keep Your Faith In & Focus On:

- Jesus Christ - And:

- His Word & His Work!

- Because - There Is Nothing:

- That Is Greater:

- Than These!

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