

GOSPEL OF JOHN
MISUNDERSTANDING CHRIST-PT 2
JOHN 7:33-36

Introduction

Last week, we left off where the chief priests and the Pharisees had sent officers to arrest Jesus! In their minds, **Jesus had crossed the line yet again!**

Jesus had already “broken” the Sabbath in their eyes! Not only had He healed the impotent man on the Sabbath and commanded the man to pick his bed up and walk on the Sabbath, but He had rambled on in the Temple teaching doctrine and trying to justify what He had done on the Sabbath!

In fact, Jesus had the very nerve to use Moses and the law to say that what He had done on the Sabbath was OK with His “Heavenly Father” and was NOT a violation of the Sabbath! He was totally forgetting about the Pharisees traditions that they had established! Did He not know that THEY were the leaders of the Jews!

And added to that, **Jesus was making what they saw as some very outlandish claims, in fact, the saw it as blasphemy!** The very nerve of **Jesus claiming to have been sent from above by His “Heavenly Father”!** They fully understood what Jesus meant by that! He meant that He was God’s Son in human flesh making Him equal with God! **They could not have such blasphemous talk about God!**

And now, the talk of the people who were listening to Jesus was sounding like **some of them were buying into Jesus somehow being the Christ...the Messiah! They could NOT have that, so they sent their Temple officers to arrest Jesus!**

And that is where we left off...Let’s pick up in *Verse 33!*

Read John 7:33-36

The Jews of Jesus day were tired of being under the oppressive Roman rule! They were so longing for the Messiah to be manifested!

They believed that the Christ would be the One to come and deliver them from all oppression!

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But as we began to see last week, **these folks had a misunderstanding about Jesus and about His role as the Christ!** Today we will see how that **their misunderstanding about Christ only broadened as Jesus continued to teach!**

We are becoming familiar with a **growing dissatisfaction right now in our own nation, aren’t we!** People are looking for that someone or something they can believe in or a cause they can support to cure perceived ills and oppression of society!

If you’ll remember, just a few short years ago there were some misguided youth that either headed to or were trying to head to the Middle East in order to join the terrorist organization ISIS. They thought that ISIS was about bringing in the change they hoped for. Most of them got there and found out ISIS wasn’t what they thought it was! Islam was NOT and is NOT somehow creating the utopia they had hoped for!

Even recently we have been seeing MANY misguided folks getting involved with leaders and movements they hope will bring about the changes they think are needed without even understanding what they are asking for!

There are those who are of the **growing socialist movement** thinking that somehow it will be better for them than capitalism. They totally ignore how socialism has failed throughout its history and even yet today! (They need only to look as far as Venezuela among others to see what it is doing!)

There are those who attach themselves to **the BLM movement!** However, they fail to see the hypocrisy in the name of the movement! Black lives only matter when those black lives fit the twisted agenda of the BLM movement!

That excludes the unborn black lives in the womb that are murdered! It excludes the black lives who are members of law enforcement and military! It excludes the black lives of those who are opposed to the desecration and removal of our nation’s historical monuments! It excludes the black lives of those who are Republican or otherwise conservative in their political stand! No, only the black lives of those that BLM say matter are the ones that matter!

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There are those who join themselves with ANTIFA whose stated desire is to disrupt, cause chaos and overthrow our nation! It claims to be against fascism while it displays the very characteristics of fascism and Naziism!

There is a growing crescendo by “*progressives*” to **abolish law enforcement, laws, and prisons!** That will only bring about anarchy which would result in further unrest and most probably bring about another civil war!

These are very perilous times indeed that we see! But back to our text!

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Here in John’s Gospel account **we see the growing movement that would actually and ultimately bring about Jesus’ arrest, trial, and crucifixion!**

We see at this point, that **Jesus had begun some of His greatest teachings concerning Himself! He was confronting both His enemies and His detractors! His desire was to do His Father’s will, which included His provision for mankind of the Gospel!** Yet, His enemies continually tried to thwart Him! A lot of that came because of their misunderstanding of Christ but other of it came because of their rejection of Christ as He revealed Himself!

Vs 33-34

WE SEE THAT JESUS SPOKE TO THESE FOLKS ABOUT THE TIME HE WOULD LEAVE THE EARTH!

Vs 35-36

WE SEE THE MISUNDERSTANDING AND CONFUSION IT BROUGHT!

As we’ve noted earlier, the religious leadership of Jesus day, **the Pharisees, were now actively trying to arrest Jesus and kill Him because of His supposed Sabbath breaking, His miracles and His teachings about God and Himself!**

I. PEOPLE WERE CONFUSED ABOUT WHO JESUS IS AND WHAT HE CAME TO DO!

Like so many confused folks in our day, **these folks did not understand Who Jesus truly is! They did not understand that His ultimate mission was to make a way for them to God and heaven!**

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Jesus came PRIMARILY to give His life to provide salvation for them and us and the rest of this lost and dying world!

Confusion still reigns today about Who Jesus is and what He did!

There was a 2014 poll of Americans done by Barna research that yielded some sad results. Only 56% of adults said they believed Jesus was God, while 26% said He was only a religious or spiritual leader on the same level as Mohammed or Buddha. The remaining 18% said they weren’t for sure whether Jesus was divine. Of those who were considered Millennials, only 48% said they believe Jesus was God.

Americans were also conflicted on whether Jesus committed sins during his earthly life. 52% agreed, either strongly or somewhat, that while he lived on earth, Jesus Christ was human and committed sins like other people. Only 46% disagreed with Jesus having sinned, either strongly or somewhat, and 2 percent weren’t sure.

We know that in these politically correct times we are living in that it is NOT very well received when we preach the truth that Jesus Christ is THE ONLY WAY OF SALVATION! Yet He is!

Realize that one’s belief about Jesus has EVERYTHING to do with one’s eternal destiny! Who do YOU believe Jesus to be?

PEOPLE WERE CONFUSED ABOUT WHO JESUS IS AND WHAT HE CAME TO DO!

II. PEOPLE WERE CONFUSED ABOUT WHERE JESUS SAID HE WAS GOING!

Jesus repeatedly taught the people about Who He was and what He came to do, but many DID NOT GET IT! Here we see He was telling these people that He was only going to be with them “*a little while.*” That did not jive with their idea of Who Messiah is and it was NOT what they were looking for in their Messiah!

They had their own ideas about what Messiah would BE and DO!

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They wanted the Messiah to BE WHAT THEY WANTED HIM TO BE and DO WHAT THEY WANTED HIM TO DO!

But Jesus' purpose and ministry as well as the time He had left on earth was determined by His Heavenly Father—NOT by the Jewish rulers who wanted to murder Him, NOT by the crowd that wanted to make Him king and have Him overthrow Rome, and NOT by anyone else or anything else!

Jesus' earthly ministry in the flesh would only last about three to three and a half short years. But during that earthly ministry Jesus was busy!

And every last bit of His ministry was determined by His Heavenly Father! And truly the impact He made in that short period of time was greater and wider than any other person who has ever lived!

The reason He left such a great impact with His life has to do with both Who He is as well as that scene of His earthly life at Mt. Calvary where He lay down His life to pay for the sin debt of the world!

In our day and age **there are an ever increasing number of people who are desperately trying to make Jesus into something else! Some see Him, not as God in the flesh, but as nothing more than a great man who was just another religious icon or figure!**

They do this because **an acknowledgment of Him as God in the flesh and the only way to God and salvation interferes with the way they want to live their lives! If Jesus indeed is God, LORD, and the only Savior (and HE IS!), then it requires something of them that so many of them are not ready to either acknowledge or accept!**

Jesus came for God's purposes and not their own selfish purposes! That's not what they wanted even though it is what they (and all of mankind) needed! So they, indeed were confused!

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While they loved the Jesus Who fed the multitudes with five loaves and two fish from a young boy's lunch...and they loved the Jesus that was the miracle worker and cast out demons and healed people...they hadn't realized that Jesus' ministry on earth would be short-lived! **They didn't realize that He would return to the One Who had sent Him, namely God the Father! So we see they missed what Jesus was saying here!**

What they failed to realize is the NATURE and the IMPORTANCE of the MAIN earthly ministry that Jesus came to do! Many of them (and even His own disciples) would NOT realize the importance of His death and His burial, until AFTER HIS RESURRECTION!

Scripture reveals that even Jesus' own disciples were confused about this:

Let's take Peter, one of Jesus' closest disciples:

John 13:36 – "Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards."

Or Thomas in *John 14:5*—"Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?"

So even His disciples misunderstood and were confused as to where Jesus was going and what Jesus was talking about here!

However, if Jesus is truly Who He said He is (And He is!) and He is alive right now at the right hand of the Father in heaven (And He is!), then His teaching that He is **"the way, the truth, and the life"** and that **"no man cometh to the Father but by me"** (*John 14:6*) has some severe consequences if not believed and followed!

There are those who would love to convince us that Jesus is still dead and so His religion is dead and needs to be buried and cast off as well.

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People want to have salvation “*their way!*” They want to change Jesus and what He said and redo both Jesus and salvation into their own image! It won’t work!

Don’t be confused as to WHO Jesus is, WHAT He came for, and WHERE Jesus went!

So many folks are spiritually confused in our day and age just as so many were in Jesus’ earthly ministry! **Jesus is NOT a momentary fix for a physical or emotional need!** Jesus is NOT just a nice guy Who taught nice things and did nice things so we could be nice people.

No, Jesus Christ is the very Son of God Who came to seek and to save that which is lost! After He paid our sin debt, He arose and ascended back to His Heavenly Father Who sent Him!

He is there today making intercession for Believers! And He’s coming again to receive those who have Believed on Him to Himself! Then He will pour out His judgment out on this earth in the seven-year period known as the Tribulation! At the end of the Tribulation He will come back WITH His saints to rule and reign on earth for a literal 1000 year period!

The confusion about Jesus is not new and it will only get worse as we approach His coming again!

Conclusion

The Jews were confused about where Jesus said He was going because they were confused about who Jesus is to begin with!

Are you confused? I hope not! Please don’t misunderstand Jesus like they did! Jesus is God in the flesh! Jesus came to die for our sin!

Jesus did die for our sin!

Jesus did rise from the grave!

Jesus did show Himself alive on this earth for 40 days!

Jesus did ascend back to His Heavenly Father!

Jesus is our great High Priest making intercession for us right now!

Jesus is coming again soon! Are you ready!