

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

December 2, 2020

John 7: 14 -24

14 Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. 15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? 16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. 17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. 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. 19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me? 20 The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee? 21 Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel. 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. 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? 24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

Verse 14

“Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.”

*At the very same time Jesus knows there are people who are planning to kill him, He becomes forthright and goes to the Temple where the Jews are! The Jews are the ones who have plotted against Him.

*When Jesus had sent out His disciples to minister He warned them in

Matthew 10:28 says “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

*And just as Jesus sent the disciples out then, so He sends us out today to minister with the same warning --- When we go to outsiders (non-believers) or to insiders (like Jews within the Temple who did not like Jesus), we will be persecuted bodily, but that will not quench our souls. Beware the people who can destroy your body and your soul.

*Jesus says, “Don’t fear those who could kill the body, but not their soul. Fear those who can kill both soul and body in hell.”

*Hardly anyone now is asked to lay down their lives for their faith in this country. But the disciples were being called to that point. Many have been and many others will be called to that point. We must pray for a hedge of protection around Christians because as the country could be going, things will get worse for believers.

Verse 15

“And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?”

*The Jews marvelled at Jesus’ knowledge. But Jesus’ teachings will always astonish great minds.

*The Bible is a book of books, inspired by God. Thousands have challenged the authority of God, but none have succeeded.

*As we continue to study God’s Word, we too will be astonished. And we will ultimately be comforted by the Word of God during difficult times. We will gain assurance for ourselves as well as knowledge concerning loved ones going to heaven.

Verse 16

“Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.”

*Here Jesus affirms that His teachings come not from humans but from God.

*Often our human side wants to judge God by our human standards (how we see things) But we know God’s ways are not our ways.

*Jesus wants to remind the Jews that His teachings are from God and not Him.

Verse 17

“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 teaches us that it is possible to do and be in the will of God. This does not mean we will be perfect, we will make mistakes. But by the Grace of Jesus, we can be in the Will and Grace of God and be forgiven. We

understand God's Will by His Word (The Bible as one continuous book) which is the storyline of Jesus Christ.

It is a quandary to Pastor Tom when people come to him with questions or problems, that they aren't in Sunday School or Bible Study to dig deeply into the Word for answers that cannot be adequately covered in a sermon. There is a difference between teaching and preaching.

II Timothy 2: 15 - 16

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness."

*This is not a suggestion, it is a command from Paul to young Timothy and to us. In another translation it says 'do your best' but this is not enough.

*To shun the babblings, we can think of how the Amish have the custom of shunning a member who does something wrong...to turn away from, have nothing to do with that.

Verse 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."

*Sometimes you hear someone who uses too many "I"s when they are talking. (Proverbs 27: 1-2 says " Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.")

* The motivation of "I-talk" is to seek self-glory, not God-glory. Our motivation as Christians is to give Jesus the glory.

Pastor Tom noted how Communion on Sunday was quite an emotional and spiritual experience. He hopes that Jesus Christ was glorified through the experience and not just the Church. If we speak the Truth, we will not have unrighteousness.

Verse 19

"Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?"

*Jesus is addressing His would-be killers. They are 'students of the Law' being confronted by the Law.

Verse 20

“The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?”

*These are typical responses of liars when they are confronted with the Truth: anger, blame, denial. Jesus claimed that He was God. The Jews claimed He was the devil!

Verses 21 - 24

“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.”

*The one work Jesus had done was to heal on the Sabbath. But Jesus argues with the Jewish leaders where it hurts them - on the issue of circumcision. Circumcision is what sets the Jews apart as God's Chosen people. So when the Jews were circumcising on the Sabbath, they were mixing the Holy with the unholy, which is breaking the Law. Jesus restored a man to wholeness on the Sabbath. But the idea of circumcision had become more of a symbol of nationalism rather than a holy restoration.

(Pastor Tom noted that author John McArthur teaches that the Church is becoming more of a political body than the body of Christ. We (the church) are abandoning our primary purpose to baptize and make disciples.

Countries will come and go but God is forever. We need to remember to be Christians first and US citizens second. Before the USA comes Jesus.)

*So we are not to judge Jesus according to how things appear but judge righteous judgement.

Pastor Tom then opened us up for discussion but no comments were added. We had been given much to ponder tonight.

*May the Lord watch between me and thee,
While we are absent one from the other.*
