

**Life in His Name – Part 18**  
**Judge Correctly – John 7:25-52**  
Crosspoint – Dave Spooner – June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Intro:**

- We ended our passage from last week with Jesus teaching in the city of Jerusalem during the festival of Tabernacles. The people were divided as to who Jesus was, while the leaders had determined to kill Him. Jesus taught the people to **“stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly” (John 7:24 NIV)**.
- This verse is the “hinge” verse that governs and connects last week’s and this week’s passage. Today our passage is centered around three questions that I am asking you to consider and reflect upon surrounding your beliefs, desires, and motivations. The questions are “Who do you think Jesus is? What do you thirst for? And whose glory are you seeking?” Don’t settle for the first answer that pops into your mind; these questions require honesty, thought, and illumination. Your answers to these questions have immediate and eternal implications, so please take them seriously.
- Let’s turn to John chapter seven, and we will start with verse twenty-five.

**John 7:25-31 NIV**

**At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill? 26 Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? 27 But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.”**

**28 Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, “Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, 29 but I know him because I am from him and he sent me.”**

**30 At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. 31 Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, “When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?”**

**Who do you think Jesus is?**

- As you can see, many in the days of Jesus were divided in their judgment of His identity. Some were convinced He was a deceiver and wanted to kill Him. Some were convinced He was a miracle worker and prophet and wanted to use Him. Some were convinced that He was the Messiah and wanted to follow Him. As the people were divided in their opinion about Jesus in His day, people are divided in our day as well.
- The late C.S. Lewis noted this as well, and on the subject of the identity of Jesus, he wrote in his book *Mere Christianity*:

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: “I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher but I don’t accept His claim to be God.” That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said that sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a

lunatic-on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg-or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to (p. 41).

- Who you think Jesus is has serious implications. He said that He was God. He said that he was the judge and all authority in heaven and on earth was given to Him. He said that He is the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one comes to the Father but through Him. He said that He was the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. He said come to me all who are tired and weary, and I will give you rest. He said to go unto all the world and teach them to obey everything He taught, and that He would be with us to the end of the age. He said that He will prepare a place for us and that He will be coming back, and **His** reward is with Him.
- If Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God, then He is to be believed and treasured above all things, to be honored above all things, to be worshiped above all things. If you don't think this way or feel this way, then you don't fully believe in Him. So, I ask you the question, "Who do you think Jesus is?" You must live your life wholeheartedly according to this conviction. If your conviction is not reflected in your life, then repent and recommit your life to Him and love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- No one teaches like Jesus. No one makes the claims of Jesus. No one has done what Jesus did. Choose this day whom you will serve. Judge correctly, who He is.

**John 7:32-44 NIV**

**The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.**

**33 Jesus said, "I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me. 34 You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come."**

**35 The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks? 36 What did he mean when he said, 'You will look for me, but you will not find me,' and 'Where I am, you cannot come'?"**

**37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.**

**40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet." 41 Others said, "He is the Messiah." Still others asked, "How can the Messiah come from Galilee? 42 Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" 43 Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. 44 Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.**

## What do you thirst for?

- We are all thirsty for something, and what you thirst for is what you pursue. Some thirst for power, and do everything they can to obtain and keep it. Some thirst for riches, and do everything they can to obtain and keep it. Some thirst for value, or love, or acceptance, and do everything they can to obtain it. Our thirst and our hunger go way beyond the physical, they stem not just from our stomachs but from our hearts.
- Jesus **“on the last and greatest day of the festival, stood and said in a loud voice, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink’”** (v. 37). We need to have an understanding of what happened on the “last and greatest day of the festival” to comprehend the significance of this statement.

On the seven days of the Feast, a golden pitcher was filled with water from the pool of Siloam and was carried in a procession led by the High Priest back to the temple. As the procession approached the watergate on the south side of the inner court three blasts from the šôpār—a trumpet connected with joyful occasions—were sounded. While the pilgrims watched, the priests processed around the altar with the pitcher, the temple choir singing the Hallel (Pss. 113–118; cf. Mishnah Sukkah 4:9). When the choir reached Psalm 118, every male pilgrim shook a lûlāb (willow and myrtle twigs tied with palm) in his right hand, while his left raised a piece of citrus fruit (a sign of the ingathered harvest), and all cried ‘Give thanks to the LORD!’ three times. The water was offered to God at the time of the morning sacrifice, along with the daily drink-offering (of wine). The wine and the water were poured into their respective silver bowls, and then poured out before the LORD. Moreover, these ceremonies of the Feast of Tabernacles were related in Jewish thought both to the LORD’s provision of water in the desert and to the LORD’s pouring out of the Spirit in the last days. Pouring at the Feast of Tabernacles refers symbolically to the messianic age in which a stream from the sacred rock would flow over the whole earth (cf. J. Jeremias, TDNT, 4. 277f.).

D. A. Carson, *The Gospel according to John, The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans, 1991), 321–322.

- When the crowds were at their greatest, and they had all just observed these things, **“Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them’”** (v. 37b-38). All of these things pointed to God as the provider, and Jesus then said, “Come to me” for these things, saying that He is God. He is the one who gives the living waters. He is the one who gives the Holy Spirit (something that only God could do). Jesus would give these things to all who thirst, and they are to come to Him.
- So again, I ask you, “What do you thirst for?” Do you thirst for “living water”? Do you thirst for a new heart and eternal life? Then come to Jesus and quench your thirst, receive the Holy Spirit, and find satisfaction and peace for your soul. There are only two wells you can drink from. One is from Jesus, which contains the living waters that can satisfy your soul and lead to eternal life, and the other is the well the world offers you, which is polluted and poisoned and will leave you unsatisfied and in pain, and lead to eternal death (See Jer. 2:13) What you thirst for determines

where you drink from. Turn to Jesus and truly live. You either seize Jesus to throw Him down or serve Jesus to lift Him up. He will not be ignored. Who do you say He is, and what do you thirst for? Your answers to these questions matter for how you live now, and where you live in eternity.

**John 7:45-52 NIV**

**Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring him in?” 46 “No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards replied.**

**47 “You mean he has deceived you also?” the Pharisees mocked. 48 “Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? 49 No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them.”**

**50 Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, 51 “Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?” 52 They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.”**

### **Whose glory are you seeking?**

- John concludes this section by focusing in on the conversation of the leaders, who Jesus described as seeking “glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God” (John 5:44 ESV). Because of their pride and their glory-seeking for themselves, they did not, nor could not, “judge correctly.” Why do people misjudge God and others? *Because they want glory more than they want truth.*
- Leaders who are trying to maintain their power and get glory use the law to break the law. They use the tactics that are described in this passage: mocking, name-calling, belittling, judging, cursing, marginalizing, and dismissing all others who oppose them or think differently than they do. They are self-inflating and have a grandiose opinion of themselves. “I’m the biggest, I’m the best, I’m the smartest, you’re the rest.” These are the behaviors of those seeking their own glory. These are the behaviors of those seeking the glory of people and not the glory of God. This is what people who are seeking their own glory do.
- Whose glory are you seeking? What do your words and action reveal? If you are seeking the glory of people, repent and ask for a new heart. Seek truth and right glory.
- John, the writer of this gospel, shows how wrong these leaders were. They were not using the law rightly, all the leaders were not disbelieving Jesus’s claims (Nicodemus), and they did not know the truth like they said they did. **“Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.”** If they would have “looked into it” they would have known that a prophet did come out of Galilee, and his name was Jonah. Jonah is mentioned by name by only one person in the New Testament—Jesus. Jesus said that He would give them the **“sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here”** (Matt 12:39-41 ESV).
- If they would have “looked into it” they would have realized that a prophet does come from Galilee. And if they would have “looked into it” they would have realized that Jesus was indeed

born in Bethlehem and He was a descendant of David. He did fulfill the scriptural requirements of the Messiah. They didn't "look into it" because they wanted to be praised more than they wanted the truth. Those who "judge incorrectly" typically have this same heart and mind.

### **Conclusion**

- So again, I ask you, and more importantly, Scripture and the Holy Spirit ask you, "Who do you think Jesus is? What do you thirst for? And whose glory are you seeking?" Deal seriously with these questions and repent and come to Jesus if you need to.
- Next week Tom Douglas will be preaching on the next passage of Jesus and the adulterers, where there is a contrast drawn between the judgment of the Pharisees and the judgment of Jesus. Tom will help us with what to do with that passage and how to read and respond to it.
- Call for prayer and pray.