



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 19

Preacher – Sandy Mason | Text – John 7:1-24

Summary:

In the wake of Jesus' difficult teachings in chapter 6, many of his followers abandon him and the Jewish religious leaders are angry – so angry, in fact, that they are seeking to kill him! Now, as the Jewish Feast of Booths (or Tabernacles) draws near, Jesus refuses to go publicly from Galilee to Jerusalem, knowing that the time for his main confrontation with the existing power structures has not yet come. Instead, he goes up to privately, not seeking to draw attention to himself or to recapture his lost followers. Finally, during the Feast, Jesus began to teach in the Temple, amazing the crowds with his wisdom and insight, and he uses the following confrontation to direct attention away from human knowledge and tradition, toward the works and blessings of God.

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?
2. Why were the Jews seeking to kill Jesus? What made them so angry?
3. Why do you think Jesus' brothers asked him to go to Jerusalem, despite the danger (v. 3-4)? How does their challenge betray their unbelief (v. 5)? **Application:** How might this kind of unbelief enter into your own expectations of Jesus?

4. Why the difference between the way the world responded Jesus and the way it responded to his unbelieving siblings?

5. What's remarkable about Jesus' teaching (vv. 14-15)? What made some unable to understand or receive his teaching? **Application: What does this say to you and me when the Scriptures seem offensive or difficult to believe/accept?**

6. What does the crowd's accusation in v. 20 reveal about them?

7. What does Jesus' response in vv. 21-23 reveal about the crowds' true focus? Were they really focused on serving the Lord, or was their focus somewhere else? How did Jesus know?

8. **Application: What do you make of Jesus' command, "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment," in v. 24? How can we avoid shallow, superficial religion?**

9. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?