

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

JOHN 7:14-31

Ice-breaker: Who was your favorite teacher in school and why?

Review: What happened in John 7:1-13?

DISCUSSION 1: Marvelous Unbelief (7:14-19)

1. When Jesus taught in the temple, during the Feast of Booths, the Jewish leaders marveled at his teaching? What about Jesus astonished them? How does the Jewish leader's response to Jesus' teaching show their unbelief?
2. The Jewish leaders drew their teaching authority from the rabbi's that had gone before them. From where does Jesus draw his authoritative teaching? How is this different from the Scribes and their teaching?
3. Where does our culture and the world draw its authority? Where should Christians draw their authority from and why? What are ways a "cultural Christianity" (Christianity mixed with views outside the Bible, even where conservative and traditional) might distort true biblical Christianity?
4. How do we work towards making sure Scripture informs our beliefs and values rather than sources that might lead us astray? What role does the local church help with this?
5. What are the dangers of standing as a judge over Jesus teaching and the Scriptures? What does it look like to rightly investigate the claims of Christ without putting yourself in authority over Jesus?
6. Jesus deserving of all glory taught to give glory to his Father. What are ways we can deflect glory from ourselves give God glory? What are signs we may be after our own glory?

DISCUSSION 2: Lunatic or Lord? (7:20-24)

1. Why would the crowd think Jesus has a demon? What does this say about their hearts approach to Jesus?
2. How does Jesus respond to their accusation he is not in his right mind? What is Jesus trying to show by bringing up circumcision and the Sabbath? (see John 5:1-17 for reference)
3. What does it mean to judge by appearances? What are ways we do this today and what are ways we can seek to have right judgement about Jesus and others?

DISCUSSION 3: Where are you from?

1. What other passages from John's Gospel help us understand the Incarnation of Jesus and his true heavenly origin? Why is this significant?
2. Why is it significant that Jesus comes to us from the Father? What does Jesus seek to accomplish in coming to earth?
3. John 7:30 tells us Jesus was not arrested yet "because his hour had not yet come." How might God's sovereignty encourage us? Are there specific things in your life right now you need to trust in God and rest in the fact that He is in control?

APPLICATION

- **Group:** With Good Friday and Easter coming up, spend time praying together for specific people in your life you'd like to invite to an Easter service or share the gospel with this week. Pray for compassion and boldness. Pray for open doors to talk about the events tied to Easter and what you believe. Pray for receptive hearts.
- **Individual:** Ask the Lord to help you to see where you have had wrong judgements of Jesus and of people. Pray that God would give you the right judgement and trust that Jesus is who he says he is.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- **Authority:** Matthew 9:6-8; 28:18, Mark 1:22, Acts 4:13, Romans 13:1-7
- **Feast of Booths (Tabernacles):** Ex. 23:16; Lev. 23:33-43; Num. 29:12-38; 16:13-15; 31:10-13; Deut. 16:13-15; Neh. 8:17-18; John 8:12.
- **The Cross:** Rom. 3:21-26; 1 Peter 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:21; John 3:14-18; Col. 2:14; Heb. 9:11-14.
- **Resurrection:** 1 Cor. 15; Luke 24:1-3; Acts 2:29-36; 3:15; 4:33; Rom. 6:8-11; 1 Peter 1:3