

MURMURINGS CONCERNING JESUS

John 7:1-19

(John 7:1-19), “After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him. {2} Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand. {3} His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. {4} For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, show thyself to the world. {5} For neither did his brethren believe in him. {6} Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready. {7} The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. {8} Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast: for my time is not yet full come. {9} When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee. {10} But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. {11} Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he? {12} And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people. {13} Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews. {14} Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. {15} And the Jews marveled, 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?”



S WE HAVE ALL HAD THOSE TIMES while reading the Bible when a verse makes us ask, “**WHAT IN THE WORLD DOES THAT MEAN?**” Sometimes that verse remains a huge puzzle that seems almost unsolvable. At other times, after we meditate on that verse, all of the sudden the light comes on and we find another great treasure in Scripture.

S IN 1843 a man was born who would affect millions of people in the world. His name was HERMON RUSSELL CONWELL. He was a lawyer. Later he became a newspaper editor. Finally in 1881 he became a preacher. One of the stories for which he is most famous is ACRES OF DIAMONDS

He told a story of A FARMER who settled IN AFRICA. The

Farmer had heard the exciting stories of other farmers who had gained millions by finding diamond mines. This farmer decided to **sell his farm and search for diamonds** himself. He spent the rest of his life wandering the vast African continent searching unsuccessfully for the gems that brought such high prices on the markets of the world. Finally, in a sudden fit of **despondency** and **desperation**, HE THREW HIMSELF INTO A RIVER and **took his own life**.

DURING THAT TIME the man who had purchased the man’s farm found a **large** and **unusually shaped stone** in a **stream** that cut through the property. The stone turned out be a great diamond of enormous value. He then discovered the farm was covered with diamonds. It was to become one of the world's richest diamond mines.

If the first farmer had only taken the time to study what rough diamonds looked like, he would have realized that he had millions. (This story was originally presented by DALE CARNEGIE)

S **HOW MANY TIMES** have we just passed over a verse thinking it was **too complicated to understand**, and as a result, we went looking in other places for the riches of God’s truth? **OUR TEXT** is an example of **ONE OF GOD’S PRECIOUS GEMS**. If we are not careful, we will pass over it without discovering its treasures.

- I. DIRECTIONS FOR JESUS
- II. DEBATE ABOUT JESUS
- III. DOCTRINE FROM JESUS

I. DIRECTIONS FOR JESUS

S SIX IMPORTANT STATEMENTS FROM VERSES 1-10:

#1. (V. 1), “AFTER THESE THINGS”

- S** “AFTER THESE THINGS” REFERS TO the events that had taken place in JOHN, CHAPTER 6.
1. Jesus had **fed** the **FIVE THOUSAND** north of the Sea of Galilee.
 2. Jesus had **stilled** the **STORM** on the Sea of Galilee.
 3. Jesus had **preached** to the crowd concerning the **BREAD of Life** while at Capernaum.

ALL THE EVENTS IN CHAPTER 6 HAD TAKEN PLACE IN GALILEE IN THE **SPRINGTIME** NEAR THE TIME OF THE **PASSOVER**

DURING THE MONTH OF **MARCH OR APRIL**.

(John 6:4), "And the **PASSOVER**, a feast of the Jews, **WAS NIGH**."

S THE EVENTS IN JOHN 7 TOOK PLACE **SIX MONTHS LATER** IN THE **FALL** DURING THE **FEAST OF TABERNACLES** IN THE MONTH OF **SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER**.

C (John 7:2), "Now the Jews' **FEAST OF TABERNACLES** was at hand."

C (**THE DATES** mentioned in the Bible are based on the Jewish lunar calendar rather than our Gregorian solar calendar. The lunar calendar follows the natural cycles of the moon rather than the rotation of the earth around the sun. The differences between the solar calendar and the lunar calendar can make understanding Bible dates a bit tricky. Easter is based on the lunar calendar and that is why it is sometimes celebrated in March and, at other times, it is celebrated in April.)

RELEVANT FACTS:

1. APPROXIMATELY **SIX MONTHS** HAD LAPSED BETWEEN John, chapters **six and seven**. That **was the length of time between *The Feast of Passover* and *Feast of Tabernacles*** (6:4; 7:2).
2. JESUS HAD SPENT THOSE SIX MONTHS **IN GALILEE**. **Verse 1** clearly states that Jesus "**would not walk in Judea**" (6:1; 7:1).
3. At the beginning of chapter 7, **only six months remained** until the next *Feast of Passover* at which time Jesus would be crucified.

#2. (V. 1), "THE JEWS SOUGHT TO KILL HIM"

S "**THE JEWS**" was a reference to the religious leaders in Jerusalem.
S **THE HOSTILITY** OF THE JEWS AGAINST JESUS had **continued to increase EVER SINCE** He had healed **the paralytic** on the Sabbath in **John 5:16, 18**.

S **THEIR DESIRE TO KILL JESUS HAD REACHED A FEVERED PITCH:**

C (V. 19), "... Why go ye about to kill me?"

C (V. 25), "... 'Is not this he, whom they seek to kill?'"

C (V. 30), "Then they sought to take him: . . ."

C (V. 32), "... The chief priests sent officers to take him."

C (V. 44), "And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him."

C (8:37), "... Ye seek to kill me, . . ."

C (8:40), "But now ye seek to kill me, . . ."

S **LATER JESUS WOULD SAY:**

C (Mat 23:37), "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"

C IN SIX SHORT MONTHS **THEY WOULD SUCCEED** in their desire to kill Jesus. Jesus would be **crucified**.

#3. (V. 2), "THE JEWS' FEAST OF TABERNACLES WAS AT HAND"

THE SCRIPTURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES **HELPS SET THE CONTEXT** in which the events of John 7 took place.

- 1) JERUSALEM WOULD HAVE BEEN **FULL OF WORSHIPERS** because the *Feast of Tabernacles* was **A PILGRIMAGE FEAST**. **Every eligible male was required to attend** this feast (Deu 16:16).
- 2) THE WORSHIPERS **WERE REQUIRED TO SLEEP IN TENTS** for the duration of the *Feast of Tabernacles*. **THAT REQUIREMENT** would have caused **the hills** surrounding Jerusalem to have been **SCATTERED WITH TENTS**. God's purpose for them sleeping in tents was to **remind them** of God's provision and protection of Israel during their forty years of wandering in the wilderness (Lev 23:43).
- 3) THE *FEAST OF TABERNACLES* **LASTED FOR SEVEN DAYS** and was followed by a required eighth day called **a Sabbath**; sometimes call **a high Sabbath**. It is **debated** whether Jesus made His famous statement in John 7:37-38 on the seventh or eighth day of the *Feast of Tabernacles*.
- 4) THE CITY WAS FILLED WITH **CELEBRATION, JOY and HAPPINESS**. The worshiper was **commanded to rejoice** at the Feast of Tabernacles (Lev 23:40; Deu 16:14-15).

#4. (V. 3, 5, 10), "HIS BRETHREN"

S THIS PHRASE, "HIS BRETHREN," is **used THREE TIMES** in our

text. These brethren were **THE HALF-BROTHERS** OF JESUS who were born to Joseph and Mary after Mary had given birth to Jesus. They are considered half-brothers because Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and not by Joseph. These half-brothers to Jesus are mentioned **several different times** in Scripture.

- 1) **(John 2:12)**, "After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his **mother**, and his **brethren**, and his **disciples**: . . . "
- 2) **(Mat 12:46-47)**, "While he yet talked to the people, behold, his **mother** and his **brethren** stood without, desiring to speak with him. {47} Then one said unto him, Behold, **thy mother** and **thy brethren** stand without, desiring to speak with thee."
- 3) **(Mark 6:3)**, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of **James**, and **Joses**, and of **Juda**, and **Simon**? and are not **HIS SISTERS** here with us? . . . "

S A SAD REALITY AFTER TWO and ONE-HALF YEARS
MINISTRY:
(John 7:5), "For neither did his brethren believe in him."

C OTHER VERSES:
(John 1:11), "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

(Mark 6:4), ". . . A prophet is not without honor, but in his own country, and **among his own kin**, and **in his own house**."

C THEIR UNBELIEF WAS PROPHESED IN THE O.T.:
(Psa 69:8), "I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children."

(NOTE: After the resurrection, Jesus' brothers became believers. James and Jude were the human authors of two of the books in the New Testament.)

FROM THOSE VERSES **WE CAN CONCLUDE THAT PROPER ANCESTRY DOES NOT MAKE A PERSON RIGHTLY RELATED**

TO GOD.

S A PERSON CAN HAVE GODLY PARENTS and still be lost. A person can have a **GODLY BROTHER OR SISTER** in the service of the Lord and still be lost. **IT IS POSSIBLE** to be born in a family as committed as **BILLY GRAHAM'S FAMILY** and STILL NOT BE A MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY.

S GOD DOES NOT HAVE ANY GRANDCHILDREN, ONLY CHILDREN.

C (John 1:12-13), "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: {13} WHICH WERE BORN, **NOT OF BLOOD**, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, **BUT OF GOD**."

S THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF JESUS' DAY WERE CONVINCED that since their ancestor was **Abraham** that that made them a member of God's family. **JESUS SAID TO THOSE WHO HELD THAT VIEW:**

C (Mat 3:9), "And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."

#5. (V. 3), "HIS BRETHERN THEREFORE SAID UNTO HIM"

(V. 3-4), ". . . Depart hence, and go into Judea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. {4} For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, show thyself to the world."

S THERE IS DEBATE as to whether Jesus' half-brothers were being **SINCERE** or **SARCASTIC**. There is reason to believe that Jesus' brothers had no more love for Him than **JOSEPH'S BROTHERS** had for him when they sold him into slavery in Genesis 37.

S It is quite possible that JESUS' BROTHERS GAVE JESUS SOME OF THE BEST ADVICE SATAN HAD TO OFFER. It was very similar to **SATAN'S ADVICE** to Jesus in the wilderness when he told Jesus to turn the rock into bread. Satan told Jesus to jump down from the pinnacle of the temple and prove Himself. Satan tempted Jesus to perform **spectacular miracles** and prove himself. **JESUS' ANSWER BACK TO SATAN WAS:**

- C **(Mat 4:4)**, “. . . Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”
- C **(Mat 4:7)**, “. . . Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”

HOW OFTEN is humanity guilty of trying to pressure God into proving Himself?

SOMEONE HAS WRITTEN **A SCRIPT** that depicts the disciples of Jesus attempting to get Jesus to go public with His miraculous power. It is somewhat **SARCASTIC**, so take it with a grain of salt. This presentation was given to me several years ago and I simply do not have record of who wrote it. It is titled:

IF JESUS HAD DONE THINGS OUR WAY

(As Jesus came closer to the day of His crucifixion and the hostilities began to increase we might have offered counsel to Jesus that sounded something like this:

PETE: This meeting has been called at the request of Matt, John, Thomas, and James. Bartholomew, will you open with prayer.

BART: Almighty God, we ask your blessing on all we do and say. And earnestly pray that you'll see our side as your side. Amen.

PETE: Jesus, we've been following you around for some time and we're getting concerned about the attendance. Tom, how many were on the hill yesterday?

THOM: 37

PETE: It's getting ridiculous, Jesus. You're going to have to pep things up. I mean, we expect things to happen.

JOHN: I'd like to suggest you pull off more miracles. That walking on the water was the most exciting thing I ever saw. But only a few of us saw it. Now if a thousand or so had a chance to witness it, we'd have more than we could handle on the hill.

JAMES: I agree! The healing miracles are terrific, but only a limited number get to see what's happened. Let's have more water to wine, more fish and bread for the masses. It never hurts to fill their stomachs. Still more storms, give more signs. That's what brings them back.

PETE: Right! And another thing, Jesus. Publicity is essential and you tell half the people you heal to keep it quiet. Let the word get around, Jesus.

MATT: I'm for miracles, but I want to hear a few stories I can understand. This business: "Those who have ears to hear, let them hear" just clouds the issue. You have to make it clear or most of us won't have anything to take home.

BARTHOLOMEW: I'd like to offer an order of service: First, a story, then a big miracle, followed by an offering, then maybe a saying or a poem or

something, followed by a small miracle to bring them back next time. Oh, you can pray if you like.

THOM: We've got to do something!

JAMES: That's for sure! Attendance has been awful!

JUDAS: I'd just like to say if we are going to continue meeting in this upper room, we've got to do something about this carpet.

- S SATAN'S DESIRE WAS THAT JESUS **BYPASS THE FATHER'S PLAN**. It was acceptable to Satan if Jesus became king of Israel as long as Jesus disobeyed His Father in the process. Satan was using Jesus' half-brothers to communicate his **message of COMPROMISE**.

#6. (V. 3), "THEN JESUS SAID UNTO THEM"

(V. 6-8), “. . . My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready. {7} The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. {8} Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast: for my time is not yet full come.”

- S JESUS WAS **SIMPLY STATING** THAT HE **DID NOTHING INDEPENDENT** FROM THE FATHER.

- S **LISTEN TO JESUS AS HE USED THE WORD "HOUR"**

- C **(John 2:4)**, “. . . Mine **HOUR** is not yet come.”

- C **(John 12:23)**, “. . . **THE HOUR IS COME**, that the Son of man should be glorified.”

- C **(John 13:1)**, “Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that **HIS HOUR WAS COME** that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, . . . ”

- C **(John 17:1)**, “These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, **THE HOUR IS COME**; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:”

FROM THE CROSS JESUS SPOKE THESE WORDS:

- C **(John 19:30)**,

- C **(John 19:30)**, “. . . He said, **IT IS FINISHED**: . . . ”

JESUS WAS SAYING that what He had been sent to do by the Father had been **COMPLETED**. He **had done** what He had been sent to do in **the way** and in **the time** He was supposed to do it.

S LISTEN AGAIN TO JESUS

(V. 6), “. . . My time is not yet come: but **YOUR TIME IS ALWAYS READY.**”

C Jesus was simply revealing to His brothers that they were NOT ON **GOD'S TIMETABLE**. He was saying to them, **you do WHATEVER you want whenever you want** and that is why you reject God's Messiah. You are religious, but you are directed by your own will, rather than the will of God.

C Jesus was different from His brothers. **JESUS DID NOT do whatever He wanted whenever He wanted to**. Jesus' will was to do the Father's will, even if that meant going to the cross – which it did!

(John 5:30), “**I can of mine own self do nothing:** as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because **I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father** which hath sent me.”

S **A QUESTION WORTH ANSWERING** – If Jesus sought the will of the Father for everything He did, is it not equally important for us to do the same? If **Jesus' heart desire** was **TO PLEASE THE FATHER**, should that not also be our heart's desire? **Should we not** also desire to look into our heavenly Father's face and seek to please Him, too?

S Seeking God's will and fulfilling it **IS THE SECRET TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**.

C (John 15:5), “I am the vine, ye are the branches: **He that abideth in me**, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me **ye can do nothing.**”

C (John 14:21), “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and **will manifest myself to him.**”

C (Isa 40:31), “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew

their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

(V. 9-10), “When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee. {10} But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.”

S At that point, Jesus left Galilee and went up to Jerusalem.

I. DIRECTIONS FOR JESUS

II. DEBATE ABOUT JESUS

#1. (V. 11), “THE JEWS SOUGHT HIM AT THE FEAST”

S “**THE JEWS**” refers to **THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES**. They looked for Jesus for **TWO REASONS**:

- (1) They looked for Jesus because they **EXPECTED JESUS** to be in Jerusalem for **the Feast of Tabernacles**. Every eligible male was required by O.T. law to be present for that feast (Deut 16:16). **If Jesus did not attend** the feast, He would have been charged by the religious authorities of breaking the law. Because they expected Jesus to be present, they were actively looking for Him.
- (2) They looked for Jesus, not to learn from Him, but **so that they might KILL HIM**.

#2. (V. 12), “THERE WAS MUCH MURMURING AMONG THE PEOPLE CONCERNING HIM”

[#1]. (V. 12), “SOME SAID, HE IS A GOOD MAN”

- (1) **A LEADING POLITICIAN** was reported to have made an unbelievable statement this past week. It is reported that he said: “It is better to be a strong leader and wrong, than to be a weak leader and right.”

Taken at face value, that statement means that **character doesn't matter**. That statement sounds like something **Satan**

would say. That kind of statement sounds like something the **antichrist** will someday make. The antichrist will be **"strong" and "wrong."**

- (2) **CHARACTER DOES MATTER.** It is an **indicator** of the trustworthiness of a person's message. **FROM THE BIBLICAL POINT OF VIEW**, it is much better to be **"weak" and "right"** than to be **"strong" and "wrong."** When you consider **Jesus' earthly ministry** in the flesh, He was **"weak" but He was "right."**

[#2]. (v. 12), "OTHERS SAID, NAY; BUT HE DECEIVETH THE PEOPLE"

S IS IT TRUE? Did Jesus deceive people? In brief form, let's let **Jesus' enemies** answer that question for us.

#1: A RELIGIOUS PHARISEE

(Luke 15:2), "And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, **This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.**"

#2. THE BETRAYER NAMED JUDAS

(Mat 27:3-4), "Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, {4} Saying, I have sinned in that **I have betrayed the innocent blood.** . . . "

#3. THE HIGH PUBLIC OFFICIAL NAMED PILATE

(Mat 27:24), "When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, **I am innocent of the blood of this just person:** . . . "

#4. A COMPANION IN DEATH - THE THIEF

(Luke 23:40-41), "But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? {41} And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but **this man hath done nothing amiss.**"

#5. A PARTICIPANT IN HIS CRUCIFIXION - THE ROMAN CENTURION

(Luke 23:47), "Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, **Certainly this was a righteous man.**"

#6. AN DEMON FROM THE PITS OF HELL

(Mark 1:24), "Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? **I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.**"

WAS JESUS A DECEIVER OR WAS HE A GOOD MAN?

- S SOMEONE HAS STATED THAT JESUS WAS EITHER**
C LIAR, LUNATIC or LORD!
C DECEIVED, DECEIVER, OR DEITY!

S C. S. LEWIS (Professor at Oxford / skeptic, agnostic / denied deity of Christ Mere Christianity)

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn't be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic on the level with a man who says he's a poached egg - or else he would be the devil of hell; you must take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But don't come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great moral teacher. He hasn't left that alternative open to us."

S Jesus goes on to share with the crowd in Jerusalem **A LITMUS TEST** that can be used to verify whether Jesus was who He claimed to be. This *litmus test* can still be applied today.

- I. **DIRECTIONS FOR JESUS**
II. **DEBATE ABOUT JESUS**

III. DOCTRINE FROM JESUS

(V. 14-15), "Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. {15} And the Jews marveled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?"

S JESUS HAD NEVER BEEN TO **THE RABBINICAL SCHOOLS**, and yet **He was wise beyond** all those who had gone to those schools. He was wiser than the scribes, the Pharisees and the priests. You may recall that when Jesus was just twelve years old, the priests in the temple were astonished at Jesus' understanding of Scripture (Luke 2:47).

S CONSIDER **FOUR STATEMENTS** JESUS MADE TO THAT HOSTILE CROWD.

#1. (v. 16), "... MY DOCTRINE IS NOT MINE, BUT HIS THAT SENT ME."

S Jesus had not made up what He had been saying. He was speaking the words given to Him by the Father. JESUS WAS A **MOUHPIECE** for the Heavenly Father.

S In our day of *self-made persons*, that is not a very inspiring or attractive statement. But that is precisely A MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN a **fleshly person** who seeks his own glory, and a **spiritual person** who seeks the Father's glory. Jesus was out to glorify the Father.

(John 7:16), "... My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me."

S THE WORD "**DOCTRINE**" simply means "**TEACHING.**" Sometimes people say they do not want to hear *doctrine* because it is **so boring**. Well, that just is not true. A teacher may be boring, but doctrine (God's Word) is exciting. Doctrine is also extremely **IMPORTANT**. People today are literally dying of physical starvation because of *false doctrine* they have accepted. Their doctrine is not true, but because they have accepted it as true, it impacts their lives as if it were true. Doctrine is extremely important.

S **SO, HOW COULD A PERSON KNOW IF JESUS' STATEMENTS WERE NOT HIS, BUT RATHER THE FATHER'S WHO HAD SENT HIM?**

S HOW CAN **WE** KNOW whose doctrine is true when **thousands of false prophets** have walked across the pages of history and made **similar claims?**

S **JESUS TELLS US HOW TO KNOW WHETHER HE IS WHO**

HE CLAIMED TO BE.

#2. (v. 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."

S Knowing whether Jesus' teaching is of God IS DEPENDENT UPON A **WILLINGNESS TO DO GOD'S WILL.**

C **(v. 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."

C **A PERSON FINDS GOD'S WILL WHEN TWO DESIRES ARE PRESENT:**

- 1) The desire **TO KNOW** God's will,
- 2) The desire **TO DO** God's will.

C Some years ago, **A NEWLY MARRIED COUPLE** were listening to a sermon when the preacher briefly mentioned the subject of tithing in passing. They had not been Christians very long and did not know what biblical tithing was. After the message was over, they approached the pastor and said, "You mentioned tithing in your sermon as something that Christians were supposed to do. Can you tell us what tithing is so we can do it?" That is an example of "IF ANY MAN WILL DO HIS WILL, HE SHALL KNOW OF THE DOCTRINE."

C HOW DOES A PERSON KNOW IF JESUS' DOCTRINE IS FROM GOD? AT ISSUE IS **A PERSON'S "WILL."** FAILURE TO KNOW GOD'S WILL IS NOT the result of **the lack of evidence**, it is **lack of willingness TO KNOW and TO DO!** **A heart in rebellion** against God will never understand Jesus until it repents.

JESUS SAID TO THE PHARISEES:

(John 8:43-44), "Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. {44} Ye are of your father the devil, and **the lusts of your father YE WILL DO. . . .**"

S **THEY WOULD NOT RECEIVE JESUS' WORDS BECAUSE of the lust of their own flesh.** Their rebellious heart made them blind to the words of Jesus.

S DR. G. CAMPBELL MORGAN

"When men are wholly, completely consecrated to the will of God and want to do that above everything else, then they find out that Christ's teaching is divine, that it is the teaching of God." (From Warren Wiersbe)

S (V. 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."

#3. (V. 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."

S JESUS WAS EXPOSING THE MOTIVES of those who were rejecting Him that day.

C THE MAIN REASON they could not tell whether Jesus was from God was they sought self-glory, rather than God's **GLORY**.

Every time Jesus said something that tarnished their self-glory, they rejected Jesus. Rather than repent of their sin, they attacked Jesus.

C SEEKING SELF-GLORY ALWAYS BLINDS A PERSON TO WHOM JESUS IS. **As long as** a person's goal in life is **self glory**, rather than **God's glory**, they will never see Jesus for who He is.

S IN CONTRAST, the person whose desire it is **TO KNOW** and **TO DO** the will of God and **TO GLORIFY** God, rather than self, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God.

#4. (V. 19), "DID NOT MOSES GIVE YOU THE LAW, AND YET NONE OF YOU KEEPETH THE LAW? WHY GO YE ABOUT TO KILL ME?"

S THEY CLAIMED to believe God. They believed the Bible was the Word of God, but they were about to kill God's Messiah. **ANY TIME A PERSON CLAIMS** to believe in God, while at the same time rejecting Jesus, they are in reality rejecting God.

C (John 5:39), "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have

eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

C (John 6:28-29), "... What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? {29} Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.**"

S For a person to say they accept God and yet reject Jesus' is to reject God. Satan himself does that.

(James 2:19), "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."

THREE CLOSING QUESTIONS:

(1) **DO YOU DESIRE TO KNOW GOD'S WILL?**

(2) **DO YOU DESIRE TO DO GOD'S WILL?**

(3) **DO YOU DESIRE TO GLORIFY GOD?**

C (Mat 5:16), "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and **GLORIFY YOUR FATHER** which is in heaven."

C (Mat 4:19), "... Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

C (Luke 9:23), "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

C (Rom 12:1-2), "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. {2} And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

C (John 14:6), "... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

C (Rom 10:9), "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."