

Doubting Because It is Different, pt. 2

In this Series...

1. We are being reminded that many people believe in the person of Jesus Christ, yet they reject His teaching.
2. We are seeing that there are many reasons why people doubt, and hopefully understand our doubts better.

The Following

“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 Christ?²⁷ But we know where this man is from; when the Christ comes, no one will know where He is from.”

²⁸Then 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, 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.”

³⁰At this they tried to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His time had not yet come.³¹ Still, many in the crowd put their faith in Him. They said, “When the Christ comes, will He do more miraculous signs than this man?” - John 7:25-31

The Assumption: *Isn’t this the man...?*

It was “the people from Jerusalem” who asked this.

They assumed that the leaders have designated Jesus as Christ.

But they couldn’t understand how this was so, since they knew (or thought they knew) where Jesus was from!

“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to His temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. - Malachi 3:1

The Correction:

Jesus cries out! (This didn’t happen often)

Jesus said that they knew Him but that they didn’t know God.

Jesus declared that He was sent by God. (3 times)

The RESULT:

Some tried to seize Jesus, but it was not time yet.

Many put their faith in Him because the evidence of the miracles was overwhelming.

The Fear

“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 go 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?’” - John 7:32-36

The Jewish leaders were terrified because of the following that Jesus had gathered and they sent guards to arrest Him.

Jesus predicts His death and tells the people that they only had a short time to come to Him.

The Jews mock Jesus’ words.

The Flow

“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”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 Christ.” Still others asked, “How can the Christ come from Galilee?⁴² Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David’s family 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.” - John 7:37-44

The Last Day of the Feast of Tabernacles: *(Tradition and Practice)*

“Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.” - Numbers 20:11

- The water was collected and poured. (Hope of blessing!)

The loud voice of Jesus — “streams of water.”

“They all ate the same spiritual food⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.” - 1 Corinthians 10:3,4

- The coming and filling of the Holy Spirit:

Some in the crowd that day believed. Others rejected the claims of Jesus because it was different than what they had understood.

The Lessons:

1. Sometimes we fail to understand or believe because of preconceived ideas that may be false.
2. As a believer, would the words “streams of living water flow from within him/her” describe my life and faith?

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