

Doubting Because of Our Identity

In this Series...

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

The Scriptures

⁴⁰“On hearing His words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.”
⁴¹Others said, “He is the Christ.” Still others asked, “How can the Christ come from Galilee?”
⁴²Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David’s family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?”
⁴³Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.
⁴⁴Some wanted to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on Him.
⁴⁵Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring Him in?”
⁴⁶“No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards declared.
⁴⁷“You mean He has deceived you also?” the Pharisees retorted.
⁴⁸“Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in Him?”
⁴⁹No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law — there is a curse on them.”
⁵⁰Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own numbers, asked,
⁵¹“Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?”
⁵²They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.”
⁵³Then each went to his own home.”

- John 7:40-53

The Context

“On hearing His words . . .”

The last (eighth) day of the Feast (holiday) of Tabernacles (Booths).

The Tradition — The singing and the water.

“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”
 - Isaiah 12:3

The Words of Jesus

“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.”
 - John 7:37



The Responses

1. Some chose to receive!

“On hearing His words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.”
⁴¹Others said, “He is the Christ.”...
 - John 7:40,41

The Prophet and the Messiah.

“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in His mouth, and He will tell them everything I command Him.” - Deuteronomy 18:18

These people had weighed the evidence.

“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 7:31

2. Some chose to review.

“Still others asked, “How can the Christ come from Galilee?”
⁴²Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David’s family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?”
 - John 7:41,42

These people wanted more evidence.

There is nothing wrong with waiting and reviewing, but commit yourself to the following:

- Follow through and do the research.
- Make a decision.

Note: The Reviewers hadn’t affected the Receivers!

“Thus, the people were divided because of Jesus.”

- John 7:43

3. Some chose to respect.

“Finally, the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring Him in?”
⁴⁶“No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards declared.”
 - John 7:45,46

“Finally,” — they listened

“Went back...” — they made a decision and stuck by it

“No one...” — they were impressed with the words of Jesus

These people didn’t really care about evidence.

4. Some chose to reject.

“Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in Him?”
⁴⁹No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law — there is a curse on them.”
⁵⁰Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own numbers, asked, ...
 - John 7:48-50

They rejected because of who they were.

They mocked those who believed differently.

They were mistaken about some of their own.

These people just rejected the evidence.

“They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.”
 - John 7:52

“In the past He humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future, He will honour Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan —”
 - Isaiah 9:1

So What?

1. If you have already chosen to receive the words of Jesus, accept your calling as a channel of God’s Spirit.

“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.”
³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”
 - John 7:37,38

2. If you are of the last three groups, understand that all of these have the same destiny.

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