

May 5, 2019am – Walking With Jesus (Gospel of John) Pt. 16 – John 7:1-52

YouTube Video 57:40 - 1:05:13 The Gospel of John <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47OkuvT5JFo&t=218s>

John 7:1-72...After this, Jesus traveled in Galilee, since He did not want to travel in Judea because the Jews were trying to kill Him. ² The Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, ³ so His brothers said to Him, “Leave here and go to Judea so Your disciples can see Your works that You are doing. ⁴ For no one does anything in secret while he’s seeking public recognition. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.” ⁵ (For not even His brothers believed in Him.) ⁶ Jesus said to them, “My time has not yet arrived, but your time is always at hand. ⁷ The world cannot hate you, but it does hate Me because I testify about it—that its deeds are evil. ⁸ Go up to the festival yourselves. I’m not going up to the festival yet, because My time has not yet fully come.” ⁹ After He had said these things, He stayed in Galilee. ¹⁰ After His brothers had gone up to the festival, then He also went up, not openly but secretly. ¹¹ The Jews were looking for Him at the festival and saying, “Where is He?” ¹² And there was a lot of discussion about Him among the crowds. Some were saying, “He’s a good man.” Others were saying, “No, on the contrary, He’s deceiving the people.” ¹³ Still, nobody was talking publicly about Him because they feared the Jews. ¹⁴ When the festival was already half over, Jesus went up into the temple complex and began to teach. ¹⁵ Then the Jews were amazed and said, “How does He know the Scriptures, since He hasn’t been trained?” ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “My teaching isn’t Mine but is from the One who sent Me. ¹⁷ If anyone wants to do His will, he will understand whether the teaching is from God or if I am speaking on My own. ¹⁸ The one who speaks for himself seeks his own glory. But He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. ¹⁹ Didn’t Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law! Why do you want to kill Me?” ²⁰ “You have a demon!” the crowd responded. “Who wants to kill You?” ²¹ “I did one work, and you are all amazed,” Jesus answered. ²² “Consider this: Moses has given you circumcision—not that it comes from Moses but from the fathers—and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. ²³ If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses won’t be broken, are you angry at Me because I made a man entirely well on the Sabbath? ²⁴ Stop judging according to outward appearances; rather judge according to righteous judgment.” ²⁵ Some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, “Isn’t this the man they want to kill? ²⁶ Yet, look! He’s speaking publicly and they’re saying nothing to Him. Can it be true that the authorities know He is the Messiah? ²⁷ But we know where this man is from. When the Messiah comes, nobody will know where He is from.” ²⁸ As He was teaching in the temple complex, Jesus cried out, “You know Me and you know where I am from. Yet I have not come on My own, but the One who sent Me is true. You don’t know Him; ²⁹ I know Him because I am from Him, and He sent Me.” ³⁰ Then they tried to seize Him. Yet no one laid a hand on Him because His hour had not yet come. ³¹ However, many from the crowd believed in Him and said, “When the Messiah comes, He won’t perform more signs than this man has done, will He?” ³² The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, so the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple police to arrest Him. ³³ Then Jesus said, “I am only with you for a short time. Then I’m going 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 Then the Jews said to one another, “Where does He intend to go so we won’t find Him? He doesn’t intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks, does He? ³⁶ What is this remark He made: ‘You will look for Me, and you will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come’?” ³⁷ On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone is thirsty, he should come to Me and drink! ³⁸ The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him.” ³⁹ He said this about the Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive the Spirit, for the Spirit had not yet been received because Jesus had not yet been glorified. ⁴⁰ When some from the crowd heard these words, they said, “This really is the Prophet!” ⁴¹ Others said, “This is the Messiah!” But some said, “Surely the Messiah doesn’t come from Galilee, does He? ⁴² Doesn’t the Scripture say that the Messiah comes from David’s offspring and from the town of Bethlehem, where David once lived?” ⁴³ So a division occurred among the crowd because of Him. ⁴⁴ Some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him. ⁴⁵ Then the temple police came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why haven’t you brought Him?” ⁴⁶ The temple police answered, “No man ever spoke like this!” ⁴⁷ Then the Pharisees responded to them: “Are you fooled too? ⁴⁸ Have any of the rulers or Pharisees believed in Him? ⁴⁹ But this crowd, which doesn’t know the law, is accursed!” ⁵⁰ Nicodemus—the one who came to Him previously, being one of them—said to them, ⁵¹ “Our law doesn’t judge a man before it hears from him and knows what he’s doing, does it?” ⁵² “You aren’t from Galilee too, are you?” they replied. “Investigate and you will see that no prophet arises from Galilee.” ⁵³ So each one went to his house].

In this passage we see the encounter of Jesus speaking to a variety of people. There was a variety of responses...disbelief...confusion...anger...and acceptance.

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Many of you may remember the 1970’s commercial about E.F. Hutton. Here is a video of one of those commercials...https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_ygqPepLjM When EF Hutton talks

“It is said that Socrates taught for 40 years, Plato for 50, Aristotle for 40 and Jesus for only 3 years. Yet the influence of Christ’s 3-year ministry far exceeds the impact left by the combined 130 years of teaching;

➤ Jesus painted no pictures;

Yet, some of the finest paintings of Raphael, Michelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci received their inspiration from Him.

➤ Jesus wrote no poetry; but Dante, Milton,

And scores of the world’s greatest poets were inspired by Him.

➤ Jesus composed no music; still Haydn, Handel, Beethoven, and Bach reached their highest perfection in praise to Him.

Every sphere of human greatness has been enriched by Jesus Christ.

Jesus is exceptional, matchless, unique among all people who ever lived”.

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/the-exceptional-jesus-gordon-curley-sermon-on-origin-237161?ref=SermonSerps>

“If Jesus were just a regular, glory-seeking, fame craving prophet ,He would have just gone up to Jerusalem, done mighty works, gathered large crowds and basked in the adoration. But Jesus is the Light of the World, and when Light enters darkness, everything is exposed for what it truly is” (Carter & Wredberg. Christ-Centered Exposition. P. 171)

The Officers’ Report: No One Speaks Like Jesus

Then in verse 45, the officers whom the chief priests and Pharisees had sent to arrest Jesus returned empty-handed. “The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, ‘Why did you not bring him?’” This is the hinge of the text; it divides the double division in the text. Verse 46 says, “The officers answered, ‘No one ever spoke like this man!’”

“No one ever spoke like Jesus.”

Of all the things they might have said about the volatile situation in the crowds and how an arrest might have caused a riot and gotten the Pharisees in big trouble, they did not cover their backsides that way. They said: “No one ever spoke like this man.”

This is the fulcrum of the text: this fact — the uniqueness of Jesus in the world — causes a double division. We’ve seen the first division: the crowds have splintered into three different views about Jesus. Now comes a second division, this time defined by the Pharisees — only this time, there is an intensification because the Pharisees give their diagnosis for each of the three positions. And every time they give the diagnosis of what they think is a false view of Jesus, they dig a hole deeper and deeper for themselves and their own blindness.

John Piper. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/no-one-ever-spoke-like-this-man>

The following section adapted from Charles Stanley.

“Listening to God”. <https://www.intouch.org/Watch/Sermon-Series/steps-to-gods-guidance/listening-to-god>

John 7:

³⁷ On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone is thirsty, he should come to Me and drink! ³⁸ The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him.”

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1. How Does God Speak to us Today?

“We know that the Lord spoke to people in the Bible, but He also wants to speak personally to each of His children today. This means we must be attentive because no one else can listen for us.

➤ **God’s primary way of speaking to us is through His Word – the Bible.**

The Bible is not just an old book, but the inerrant, authoritative Word of God and the only source of truth. When we read it, we’re hearing directly from the Lord. All other methods of listening to God must be checked and compared with the Scriptures to determine if we are accurately hearing Him.

➤ **He also speaks to us through prayer.** Prayer is our way of communicating with God by talking to Him, but it’s also a time to be still and listen for His guidance. Instead of simply running through our list of requests and moving on to the day’s duties and activities, we need to learn to be still for a while to see if He has anything to say to our hearts.

➤ **The Lord may speak through our circumstances.**

When a situation is painful, we must remember that hearing from God is more important than our comfort and pleasure. He uses difficulties and suffering to grab our attention. In every event, God has something to teach us. Instead of focusing on why the situation has happened, our first question should be, “Lord, what do you want to say to me?”

➤ **Sometimes God speaks to us through other people.** It may come in the form of affirmation, confirmation, encouragement, or even reproof or warning. And the Lord may use anyone He chooses to deliver His message—even someone we may not like. No matter the source, we should thoughtfully and prayerfully consider whatever is said”. (Charles Stanley)

2. How can we identify God’s voice?

“When we are seeking to hear from the Lord, we must make sure that it’s His voice we are hearing and not our own thoughts or someone else’s ideas.

➤ **God’s voice is always consistent with His Word.**

Any message must agree with what the Lord has already said in the Scriptures.

➤ **His voice is often quiet.** God speaks to our hearts through His Holy Spirit in an inaudible but compelling way.

➤ **The Lord speaks clearly.**

If we’ll tune our hearts to Him by setting aside time to read His Word and listen for His Spirit to speak, He will give us clear guidance. (C. Stanley)

➤ **Does this idea make me more like Christ?**

Life is a temporary assignment, He wants you to become like Jesus in character. Everything, every body, mind, relationship, environment...nothing is perfect. It is all broken because of sin. James 3:14-17 says, “But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”

<https://jesusonline.com/learn-recognize-gods-voice-rick-warren/>

➤ **Is it convicting rather than condemning?**

“God never attacks my value because that’s not the way God speaks. Romans 8:1 says, “There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.” When God convicts you that you have done something wrong and you repent then Jesus takes the condemnation and you are set free. Revelation 12:10 says, “Satan is the accuser of believers.” Before you sin Satan minimizes your sin and after you sin he says how could you do that and call yourself a Christian”? (Rick Warren)

➤ **Do I sense God’s peace about it?**

“1 Corinthians 14:33 says, “God is not the author of confusion.” God wants to draw us compassionately. Do you sense God’s peace about it as you listen to Him? Philippians 4:6-7 says, “Don’t worry about anything, instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” (Rick Warren)

3. Why don’t we listen to God?

➤ **We may not believe that the Lord speaks today.**

“If that’s the case, we won’t be listening for His voice. But those who tune in to Him every day realize that He speaks personally to our spirits if we’re listening.

➤ **We might be afraid of what He will say.**

What if God asks of us something we don’t want to do? This attitude displays a lack of trust and a failure to understand that His plan for our lives is always the best option.

➤ **We could be angry with the Lord.**

If we’ve blamed Him for something that happened in the past, we may not be interested in hearing anything He has to say.

➤ **We could have a rebellious spirit.** If we’re refusing to give up a particular sin in our lives, we won’t want to hear the Spirit’s convicting voice”. (C. Stanley)

4. What are the consequences of not listening to God?

“The consequences are dire and personal. They affect those around us, particularly those we love. Just as He spoke in biblical times, God speaks to us when we pay attention to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

➤ **We won’t receive His guidance** and will miss out on His plan for our lives.

➤ **We will miss out on His promise of peace & comfort**

➤ **We’ll listen to the wrong voices**, be deceived, make costly decisions, and forfeit God’s best.

➤ **Others will suffer.** An unwillingness to listen to the Lord affects not only us but our loved ones and associates”.

Adapted from: SERMON NOTES | SN150201. Charles Stanley, <https://www.intouch.org/Watch/Sermon-Series/steps-to-gods-guidance/listening-to-god>

John 7:1-52

***Jesus is
Speaking...
Are You
Listening?***

