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Who Is Jesus

JOHN 7:12-46

Introduction

1. Have you ever had someone say to you, “a penny for your thoughts”?
2. It is another way of saying, “What’s on your mind?” or “Tell me what you are thinking.”
3. Our words and our deeds find their origin in our thoughts.
4. Last week we looked in the seventh chapter of John’s Gospel at three different reactions to Jesus:
 - a. “The Jews” (vv. 11, 15)
 - 1) The leaders of the nation (chief priests, Sadducees, Pharisees).
 - 2) Jesus’ enemies.
 - 3) They were seeking to rid themselves of Jesus.
 - b. “The crowds (people)” (vv. 12, 20)
 - 1) The pilgrims who had come to Jerusalem for the feast.
 - 2) They do not know a great deal about the plans of the authorities or the teachings of Jesus.
 - c. “The people of Jerusalem” (v. 25)
 - 1) The Jerusalemites.
 - 2) They knew of the animosity which the religious leaders had toward Jesus, and questioned their lack of response to Jesus’ speaking publicly in the Temple precinct.
2. Each of these reactions were based upon a belief about who Jesus is.
3. Tonight, I would like for us to look at the different judgments on Him.

4. It is important that each of us decide in our own minds, based on the facts presented to us, who Jesus is.
5. As we do this, we must each remember that we will one day stand before God for our judgment.
6. So who or what did people believe Jesus to be?

Slide 2**A. A "GOOD MAN" (v. 12)**

"There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him; some were saying, "He is a good man"" (John 7:12, NASB95).

1. While it is true that Jesus was a "man." That was stated time and time again.
2. In John 19:5, when Pilate had Jesus brought out before the crowd, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, he said to the crowd, "Behold, the Man!"
3. In 1 Timothy 2:5, Paul reminds us, "there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."
4. And, as Peter told all those gathered with Cornelius in his house, Jesus "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).
5. But Jesus was far more than a "good man".
6. The officers sent by the chief priests to arrest Jesus on this very occasion returned empty handed and said, "Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks" (John 7:46).
8. According to Mark 15:39, there was a centurion who was standing right in front of Jesus at the cross. When he saw the way Jesus took His last breath, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Slide 3**B. A PROPHET (v. 40)**

“Some of the people therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, “This certainly is the Prophet”” (John 7:40).

1. Already, the word on the street was that Jesus was Elijah, or Jeremiah, or one of the prophets (Matthew 16:14).
2. Those at the feast questioned if He was, “the Prophet,” of whom Moses had spoken so long ago.
3. You may remember from our study a few weeks ago, that God had promised Moses that He would raise up a prophet like him (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18).
 - a. Moses told the Israelites that God would put His words in this prophet’s mouth, and that He would speak all that the Lord commanded Him (Deuteronomy 18:18).
 - b. The Lord expected the people to listen to this prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15).
4. However, each prophet recognized that neither his authority nor his message were his own.
5. Both issued from God — therefore, the prophets would say, “Thus says the Lord” (Isaiah 66:1; Jeremiah 5:14; Ezekiel 2:4).
6. Jesus, however, spoke from His own authority, “I say to you” (Matthew 5:18, 20, 22, 26 etc.).

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C. A DELUDED MADMAN (v. 20)

“The crowd answered, “You have a demon!”” (John 7:20).

1. Instead of a conquering king, He chose to be a suffering servant.
2. He chose the humility of the Cross instead of the power offered by an earthly throne.
3. He washed the feet of his own disciples when others should have been

kneeling before His own.

4. He turned the world's standards upside down.
5. He was either completely mad, or the sanest man to ever walk upon this earth.
6. The truth is, Jesus brought into a mad world the supreme sanity of God.

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D. A SEDUCER (v. 12)

“There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him; some were saying, “He is a good man”; others were saying, “No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray”” (John 7:12).

1. In the minds of the religious leaders, Jesus was . . .
 - a. “a gluttonous man and a drunkard” (Matthew 11:19; Luke 9:34).
 - b. One who had disreputable friends — “tax collectors and sinners” (Matthew 9:11; Mark 2:16).
 - c. a Sabbath-breaker
 - d. a blasphemer (Matthew 9:3; Mark 2:7, 3:29).
2. As I mentioned earlier, “the chief priests and the Pharisees” had sent officers to arrest Jesus (John 7:32).
3. When the officers returned empty handed and were asked, “Why did you not bring Him?” (v. 45), they answered, “Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks” (v. 46).
4. The Pharisees immediately responded to them, “You have not also been led astray, have you?” (v. 47).
5. In their minds, to reject their idea of religion and listen to Jesus was to be led astray.
6. You be the judge.

Slide 6**E. A MAN OF COURAGE (V. 26)**

“Look, He is speaking publicly” (John 7:26)

1. Here, Jesus walked “into the temple, and began to teach,” knowing there were those who intended to kill Him.
2. As William Barclay put it, Jesus had . . .
 - a. the moral courage to defy convention and be different.
 - b. the physical courage to bear the most excruciating pain.
 - c. the courage of purpose to keep pressing forward when . . .
 - 1) His family abandoned Him
 - 2) His friends forsook Him
 - 3) One of His own circle betrayed Him.

Slide 7**F. THE CHRIST (V. 41)**

“Others were saying, “This is the Christ.”” (John 7:41).

1. There were those who believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Anointed One of God.
2. This was Peter’s declaration of Him, on at least two different occasions:
 - a. Capernaum, when so many left Him, “You are the Holy One of God” (John 6:69).
 - b. Caesarea Philippi — “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16).
3. Nothing else will do. No other human category effectively describes Jesus.
4. Besides, He leaves us no other choice.
5. At the end of this feast, Jesus will say to those Jews who sought His life, “unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24).

Conclusion

1. Tonight, I leave you with the question which you have seen before you throughout this study, “Who is Jesus?”

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2. One chapter from the end of his gospel, in John 20:30-31, John wrote these words,

“Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:30–31, NASB95)

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3. On the day of Pentecost, following Jesus’ resurrection, Peter told the crowds gathered in Jerusalem, “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified” (Acts 2:36).
4. As Peter and John stood on trial before the rulers and elders of the people, following the healing of the lame man at the Temple gate, Peter said, “there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12, NASB95).
5. Not only does it matter what you think about Jesus, it also matters whether or not you act upon your estimation of Him.
6. If you believe Him to be God’s only Son, the Savior of the world, but do not act on that belief, you leave yourself no hope beyond this life.
7. Tonight, will you chose to come to Him in obedient faith and let Him wash your sins away?