

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ**

### **Controversy at the Feast of Tabernacles**

Last time...Jesus arrived at the Feast of Tabernacles...in the middle of the feast (Day 3 or 4)  
and the controversy started immediately

The 3 parties involved in the controversy were

1. Jesus
2. the Jews: scribes and Pharisees hostile to Jesus
3. the people: common folk divided regarding Jesus

This time...the controversy continues

The scene is in the Temple

We will again be in John 7

[ v25-36 ]

v25    some of them of Jerusalem:

Some of the residents of Jerusalem (year round residents vs pilgrims),  
observers of this great controversy between their religious leaders and  
Jesus of Nazareth, address the “elephant in the room”:

“Is this not the man they want to kill?”

The murderous hatred of the Jews (hostile scribes and Pharisees) toward Jesus  
was common knowledge, well-known...

by Jesus (v19)

by all, in spite of the denial (v20)

Those addressing the elephant in the room continue

v26 he speaks boldly...rulers know indeed:

“Is this the man the rulers (the Jews) want to kill?

But, look, He speaks boldly...frankly, openly, freely, plainly, assuredly.

(He is NOT afraid of the Jews like the people are...v13)

And they have nothing to say to Him.”

The residents of Jerusalem are saying that which the others would not because of fear of the Jews...”Christ”

And they are wondering what is up with their religious leaders

The Jews do not contend, contradict, or correct Jesus

Do they not know what to say to Him, how to respond to His teaching?

Do they now know that this Jesus of Nazareth is in fact the Messiah?

(Has Jesus “won” them over?)

Are they “hunting” in the background, stirring up the people to speak for them, not wanting to look like the bad guys to those people who support Jesus?

The Pharisees and Sadducees were very clever, in the worldly way

They ran with the foxes (Romans, Herod Antipas, Luke 13:32) while hunted with the hounds (their disciples, the people they agitated)

They were very political, ruthlessly so

They were devious, unscrupulous, NOT Godly or holy

They were guilty of treason – against God and their nation

Whatever wicked game they are playing, Jesus is onto to them.

He is faithfully and boldly speaking the words His Father sent Him to speak...  
in His house, the Temple

What is the source of His boldness?

Luke 4:14

Acts 4:8-13

Acts 4:14-18

Acts 4:19-31

Boldness comes from God

With power

John 1:12 to become children of God when believe in Jesus

Luke 24:49 from on high, the promise of the Father

Acts 1:8 when Holy Ghost comes upon

comes boldness to be a witness of Jesus Christ

Anti-boldness = fear (v13)  
Comes from Satan

Lest we think the residents of Jerusalem know Jesus is the Christ,  
let's keep reading

v27 we know this man whence...no man knows:  
“We know where this man is from – Nazareth.  
But no man knows where the Messiah comes from.”

Wait...what?  
Does not Scripture clearly say the Messiah comes from Bethlehem?!

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, **from everlasting**.

This also was well known

Matt 2:1-6 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.  
When Herod the king had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.  
And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.  
And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,  
And thou Bethlehem, *in* the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Followed by Herod's bloodbath, the murder of all boys under the age of 2 in Bethlehem, foretold in Jer 31:15

Yet...the scribes and Pharisees also taught that they will not know where the Messiah comes from because of Dan 7:13-14

Thus, a tradition...

an interpretation of Scripture by man by man's reasoning  
rather than by Scripture and the revelation by the Holy Spirit...  
once again made the Word of God of none effect (Mark 7:13)

And this tradition served to confuse the people, to blind them in part

How are Micah 5:2 and Dan 7:13-14 reconciled?

- The Messiah is God...from everlasting/eternity, which God inhabits (Is 57:15)
- The Servant of God (Is 53) and the King of God (Ps 2) are One in the same...  
2 Comings of the same Messiah, God their Savior  
(veiled in Hebrew Scripture, clearly revealed in NT)  
(**NOT** Israel is Servant of God and Messiah is King)

v28-29 Then cried Jesus in the Temple...know:

Jesus addresses the error of the tradition of the elders immediately...  
with open and frank and plain teaching

Jesus has not been hidden, has not played His cards close to the vest

John 18:19-20

Acts 26:25-26

The Jews and the people would understand His teaching if...they believed

Agnosticism is no excuse...Jesus immediately removes it as such.

No man will have an excuse to deny the revelation of God given to them

“You know Me and where I come from.

I am not here for My plan, My glory, or My benefit.

I have been sent, by Him that is true/truthful.

(insinuation: What the Jews are saying about Him is not true)

I know Him (Who sent Me) because I am from Him.”

“He” and “Him” is “God” (v17)

Echoes of John 5:17-18, 18 months ago

As revelation progressed,

Heb 3:1-2a Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him

“Apostle” = delegate, ambassador, he that is sent  
Jesus is our Apostle!

I know the Father but you do not know Him.  
I know the Father because I am from/beside Him...He sent Me...  
**that** is where I am from.

Jesus in no uncertain terms is proclaiming and affirming His Deity

- from/beside the Father
- Who inhabits eternity (therefore so did He)
- sent from above/heaven (Dan 7:13-14), God's Throne (Matt 5:34), to earth (via Bethlehem as foretold in Micah 5:2)

Truly, this is the fulfillment of Hag 2:1-9!

The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts

2 Cor 4:6      For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the **light** of the **knowledge of the glory of God** in the **face of Jesus Christ**

So how do the Jews and the people react to this teaching by Jesus?

v30-32    they sought to take Him...many of the people believed:

Again, Jesus is the point of division, not peace and unity...  
the center of controversy in Israel and on earth

v30      The Pharisees (the corrupt priesthood) heard Jesus quite clearly and desired to seize and arrest Him...to kill Him

v31      many of the people (common folk) believed on Him (John 6:28-29)  
They discerned a radical difference between what Jesus said/did and what the Jews said/did

He teaches like one having authority, not like the scribes  
He has all the answers, the rulers have only confusing questions  
He teaches of the Spirit (freedom, 2 Cor 3:17), the scribes teach of the letter (burden too heavy to bear)

They considered Jesus' track record and resume...if He is not Messiah, who could possibly be!

John 5:36

John 10:37-38

v32 The Pharisees and the chief priests (multiple chief priests vs 1 per the Law because were multiple buyers of the office, sold by Romans) hear what the people are saying (v31) and realize they are about to lose the people (i.e. their power, influence and economic security) to this blasphemer...

Who again proclaimed His Deity  
and  
boldly so while calling us liars...  
so “Arrest that man!”

They sent officers – Temple guards/soldiers  
Romans on the Temple Mount would cause riots, something the Roman governor had no interest in  
So the Jews were allowed to “police themselves” on the Temple Mount and in matters of their religion

But...

v30 no man laid hands on Jesus...  
because His time had not yet come  
Whose “His”?  
Father’s? Yes  
Son’s? Yes  
John 10:30

(but if looks could kill...)

Therefore, the soldiers could not lay their hands on Jesus because

- a. God is in control, man is not  
It may seem man’s plan is being accomplished (John 18),  
but is it actually God’s plan that is
- b. They were restrained  
God Himself was in His house...the very presence  
of God restrained the evil that was intended

2 Thes 2:6-7

withhold = let = restrain

Holy Spirit...we are the temple of the Holy Spirit

Jesus is not finished teaching!

v33-34 Yet a little while...then I go:

To

- the soldiers who have been sent to arrest him
- the Pharisees and chief priests who sent the soldiers
- the people in the Temple

Jesus says

“I (from above/heaven/eternity) am with you (in time on earth) just a little longer.

Then I will return to My Father in heaven (where I came from).

(But not until I have finished saying His words and doing His works...as

- The Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world
- The Father’s sin offering)

Then you will seek, will desire to see, Me but you shall not find me

(for I will have gone back from whence I came).

And you cannot follow Me there.”

This is a very somber warning: You will be too late

**2 Chron 15:1-4**

To seek the Lord requires His Word (vs traditions of men)

To abandon the Word is to abandon the Lord

To return to the Word is to seek and find the Lord

Is 55:6

Seek the Lord while He may be found...He will not suffer fools

**Jer 29:12-13**

Seeking the Lord requires the Word of God...and all your heart

v35-36 said the Jews among themselves:

Upon hearing this, the intellectual elites, the Jews, start to reason among themselves, trying to figure out what Jesus just taught...

which, according to the Scriptures was His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension...as will be clear when it is accomplished

“Is he going to go teach the Jewish people dispersed throughout the Gentile nations?

(We could still send soldiers after Him. e.g. Saul of Tarsus to Damascus)

Is he going to teach the...pitooey...Gentiles?

(wait...Scripture say the Gentiles come to the Jewish Messiah?)

Is 60:3            And the Gentiles shall come to thy light

Is 9:1-2            when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict *her* by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations (Jesus' just concluded Galilean ministry)  
The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

They do not understand because...they do not believe...  
either The Father in heaven (v16-17) or Moses (John 5:46)

Their understanding is blinded by their unbelief of the Word of God...  
They have abandoned the Lord because they have abandoned the Word of God as their Final Authority; man is now  
They honor God with their lips but their hearts are far from Him

We can imply from the text that Jesus walked away...all eyes staring after Him  
presumably...because the next verse is several days later

### **Application**

Every person on earth is a sinner

Rom 3:10            There is none righteous, no, not one

Rom 3:23            all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God

Every person on earth has been given a revelation of God

Rom 1:18-20        For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.



Every person has faith to believe

Rom 12:3 every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith (every person has faith to believe)

Heb 11:6 without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him

John 6:29      This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent

Hab 2:4      The just shall live by faith  
                      echoed in      Rom 1:17  
                                        Gal 3:11  
                                        Heb 10:38

Eph 2:8-9      for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast

Foolishness is to not invest one's faith in God, to reject the Word of God as

- Truth
- Life
- Light

God will not forever suffer fools

He does hold every person accountable for their inexcusable unbelief

The agnostic has no excuse

The atheist has no excuse

## The self-righteous religious person has no excuse

Who do you say that Jesus is (Matt 16:13)?

Do you say it with your whole heart?

Whether sitting here, watching on FB Live, or listening on the webpage, you are one of 2 people, for there are only 2 kinds of people:

1. Believer:

Continue to diligently seek the Lord with all your heart...in Spirit and in Truth/Word

Blessed are you!

John 20:29     Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed  
*are they that have not seen, and yet have believed*

John 14:1-4     Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in  
Me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were not so*, I  
would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go  
and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you  
unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also. And whither I  
go ye know, and the way ye know

Ask for boldness to share your faith in Jesus Christ...power from on high to speak  
frankly, openly, freely, plainly, assuredly...NOT afraid

2. Unbeliever (including the many in Christian religions):

It is NOT enough to know **about** Jesus, being saved from the holy God's justifiable wrath  
and eternal death comes by **knowing** Jesus...personally, relationally

The relational God wants a personal relationship with you!

He has paid the price to make that possible

All you need to is to agree and to ask for His gift...to surrender your will/life to His

Your Creator has provided more evidence that His Word is true than you could ever  
grasp

You can with unshakable confidence believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the  
Living God

Seek the Lord while He may be found

Today is the day of salvation

There is a time of "You are too late."