

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Disconnects and Contentions, Part 1

Last time...I AM the Light of the World, he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life...we are Light-bearers commanded to let our Light shine!

This time...still the day after Feast of Tabernacles, the Pharisees are highly offended by Jesus
Jesus has a highly contentious conversation with the Pharisees regarding a number of
“issues”

Is 55:8-9 For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways My ways,
saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My
ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts

Because God and unregenerate man are “disconnected”

Is 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your
sins have hid *His* face from you

Fallen man (male + female) is disconnected from God,
he is disoriented in his heart and mind

Man needs re-connecting and re-orienting
from flesh to Spirit
 sight faith
 darkness Light
 death Life

God’s Plan to do just that is in the Person of Jesus Christ, The Word that became flesh
And God gave us the written Word that we would know Jesus Christ, the Living Word

- personally, not “distantly” or “2nd handedly”
- factually, not theoretically or opinionatedly
- intimately, not superficially via 20 min “sermonettes”

Therefore we must study to show ourselves approved unto God, workmen that need not
to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth, to understand what Jesus is
saying to us about

- Who He is
- what He expects of us

We continue in John 8...with disconnects and contentions between

- flesh and Spirit
- sight and faith
- darkness and Light
- death and Life

v13-14 The Pharisees...record:

The Pharisees are not the same Pharisees of v3
They are different than their fellows who came with some scribes to ensnare
Jesus...who dug a pit and then fell into it
The Pharisees, as the sect, seemingly always had a contingent around Jesus,
keeping book on Him

The first disconnect and contention between the Pharisees and Jesus:
a true witness

In response to what Jesus proclaimed in v12, the Pharisees call Jesus a
false witness

According to their

- human reasoning
- agenda
- beliefs and traditions

Jesus is just another self-proclaimed and self-glorifying Messiah...
His testimony of Himself is not true i.e. is false

They've asked Him for a sign from heaven to confirm the things He has
said, but He has refused

Jesus refuted their assertion

Though/If I testify of Myself...by the words I say and the works I do
(miracles)...My testimony is true, according to the Word of God.

I know from where I came...heaven, eternity, everlasting...
as revealed in Messianic Scripture

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

Is 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and
his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince
of Peace.

I know where I go...to be lifted up, to rise up, and then taken up

But all ya'll cannot tell/know either...since do not believe God's witness

v15-16 judge...not alone:

You men judge

- condemn
- distinguish between true and not true

(others, including Him)

according to the flesh

- sin nature with all its lusts
- corrupted and defiled hearts and minds
- dead...no spiritual/eternal life

I judge/condemn not even one person

v7, 11

Even though He could because He has a different nature

- sinless
- pure
- holy
- eternal life

That is not why the Father sent Him

John 3:16-18

If I did judge, My judgment is true because I am not alone

(with Me you get 2 judges Who know the hearts of men!)

1 Sam 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart

Jer 17:9-10 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
I the LORD search the heart, *I* try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings

Jesus has repeatedly called the Pharisees out on what they were...

thinking, reasoning within themselves

Only God can do that!

v17-18 testimony of two...Myself and the Father:

Written in your Law...

your Law...the Law pertains to you

Jesus is the Lawgiver, greater than the Law

According to the Law, truth is known by 2 or 3 witnesses

Jesus fulfills this Law...He and the Father are witnesses that Jesus is the Messiah,
the Son of God (Matt 3:13-17)

Jesus is not another self-proclaiming Messiah as asserted by the Pharisees (v13),
He is the True Witness

The disconnect between human reasoning and the Word of God results in
contention about the truth of Jesus' testimony of Who He is

Rev 3:14...the Faithful and True Witness of God

Now, the next disconnect between man and God...His Father

v19 Where is thy Father:

Who do the Pharisees believe Jesus' father to be?

Joseph, the husband of Mary

Matt 13:5 Is this not the carpenter's son?

v41

And where is Joseph, the husband of Mary, at this point in time?

Dead, most likely (absent from Scripture)

Yet Jesus said He is not alone (v18), He has been sent by The Father,

and The Father bears (present tense) witness of Him

Therefore, "Where is Your Father?"

Jesus responds to their unbelieving disconnect and contention about His Father

"You do not know Me or My Father.

If you had known Me, you would have certainly known My Father as
well."

Less than a week ago, He said the same thing...Ch 7:28-29

Jesus again speaks to their case of mistaken identity.

He is known as Jesus of Nazareth, but He is not the son of Joseph,

He is the Son of God

Jesus has been saying He is their Messiah; as recently as
John 7:37-38 once the high priest finished reciting Is 12

- LORD JEHOVAH
- their Salvation
- the Holy One of Israel in their very midst

v12 with Ps 27:1

The Pharisees understood His claim...hence v13, counter-claiming He is a
self-glorifying, self-proclaiming Messiah, a false witness
Their claim is based on human reasoning, their agenda, their beliefs and traditions
But the Word of God, the witness/testimony of God, says differently

Messianic Scripture was given by God to the Jews so they...
and the world thru them...
would recognize the Messiah when He came

Jesus has been doing and saying He is the Messiah and they should have
recognized/known Him
(why Luke 19:41-44)

But they do not recognize/know Him, therefore they do not know The Father
(My Father) either
Heb 1:1-3 the brightness of His glory,
the express image of His Person

v20 in the treasury...no man laid hands on Him:

To the Pharisees, "There He goes again!"

John 5:16-18, 18 months ago, which they have not forgotten...
as evidenced by the insinuation that they wanted to lay hands on
Him...yet again!

John 7:30, 43-44

Again, they were restrained by the Holy Spirit

Jesus said these things in the Treasury, the place of the freewill collection boxes
(Giving of one's free will is an act of worship)

All the Pharisees are giving the Lord of their free will is hostility...
disconnects with God that have led to contention with their God

And now, another disconnect and contention – "from"

v21 I go...shall die in your sins...cannot come:

Jesus continues to make the distinction between Him and them,
revealing the disconnect and contention between them and God

I go my way...I will depart and go away

(in context, a “higher” reality than just to Perea, where He will go next in
His ministry)

- lifted up...on the Cross as the Father’s Sin offering (Is 53, Dan 9:26a)
- raised up...from death, conquering death (Ps 16:10, Is 25:8)
- taken up...back to heaven, the Father, eternity from whence He came

ye shall seek...in the Hebrew mind, “seek” means either/or:

- worship
- plot against

shall die in your sins...their position before God

- stubborn unbelief
- rejecting God’s mercy in the Person of God’s Messiah
- eternal separation from God, Is 59:2 forever

where I go you cannot come...you are not able to go where I am going – heaven

To the Hebrew minds contending with Jesus, it is clear Jesus is speaking of
heaven and hell, as evidenced by their response

v22 Will He kill Himself:

Why did the Pharisees say this?

Why did the Pharisees think Jesus was talking about suicide?

Because they are disconnected from God

In their tradition, a deep hell was reserved for those who committed suicide
(listen to the devil’s message – Kill yourself!”)

And in their self-righteous, disconnected blindness, the Pharisees

- understand that Jesus is speaking of heaven and hell
- think they are going to heaven and Jesus is going to hell...
thus the talk of suicide

Jesus corrects their disorientation

v23-24 Ye are from beneath...die in your sins:
The Pharisees' orientation of the respective eternal destinations is the exact
opposite of the truth

Jesus takes the gloves off, leaving no room for misunderstanding

Ye are from beneath...children of hell (Matt 23:15), children of darkness

I am from above...I, the Light of the world, came from heaven (v14),
the habitation of God My Father Who inhabits eternity

All ya'll are of this world...citizens of the kingdom of darkness on this
created and cursed planet

I am not of this world...I am the Creator, King of the kingdom of Light

Therefore...since v23 is true

Ye shall die in your sins (v21)...not the other way around as you think.
I will not die in sin, for I am without sin and Adam's sin nature

If...you have a choice to make

Ye believe not that I am...you decide to not believe/trust/have faith/agree
with God that I am

- "*he*" is in italics, a designation by the translators that they added the word since it is not in the original manuscripts
i.e. Jesus did not say "*he*" so let's not read it
- I AM that I AM...Ex 3:14

Jesus is making very clear the differences in the natures and eternal habitations of
Himself and His enemies

He is the Self-existent God

Man is dead in his sin and will remain so if he chooses to not believe/trust
Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior

Application

Fallen man is disconnected with God, disoriented from Truth...and contentious toward God...
children of the devil and children of wrath (Eph 2)

Man sees no problem with himself...thinks he is “good” and, although not perfect,
his errors/offenses are “no big deal”

But in the eyes of God

- Self (man’s fallen nature) is an abomination, a terrible offense to Him
- the sins of man are vile, disgusting, revolting, insulting
- Sin is a HUGE deal...separating God and man

Therefore God the Father sent God the Son to be His Lamb, to

- lay down His life as a ransom for many...no man able to take His life
- be the Sin Sacrifice for the whole world...not a meaningless suicide

Those

- from beneath...the world
- children of wrath and of the devil
- of (citizens of) the world

who believe in (commit, trust...action verbs) The Son, the Lamb of God, will be

- justified, cleansed by the blood of the Lamb
- made new creatures, alive spiritually and no longer separated from God
- made citizens of heaven (Phil 3:20)

The difference between eternal death and eternal life is...

- made possible by God
- a choice for every person, Jew and Gentile
- a matter of faith (believe, commit, trust, obedience, do)...
in Jesus Christ or in Self

The dividing line between eternal death and eternal life is...the Cross of Jesus Christ

Such is the testimony of God

Gen 15:6

Deut 30:11-20

Matt 5:17 came to fulfill, not to destroy Law and prophets (God's witness)
Acts 15:7-11 why put a yoke on the Gentiles that we Jews were not able to bear

Matt 11:28-30 Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will
give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am
meek and lowly (humble) in heart, and ye shall find rest for your
souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Gal 3:17b-19a the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot
disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the
inheritance *be* of the law, *it is* no more of promise: but God gave *it*
to Abraham by promise. Wherefore then *serveth* the law? It was
added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to
whom the promise was made

Rom 4:19-25 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now
dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the
deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God
through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;
And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able
also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for
righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it
was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed,
if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;
Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our
justification.

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

The testimony of God is not like the reasoning of man...Is 55:8-9

Who is Jesus Christ?

What is expected of us?

To believe in Him (John 6:28-29)

To follow Him

- lifted up...denying Self, picking up Cross
- raised up...unto everlasting Life
- taken up...to heaven, with Him and our Father

Today, disconnect and contention on

1. True Witness
2. Father
3. “from”

Next week, disconnect and contention on

1. Messiah, the Servant of God
2. Freedom
3. Abraham’s seed
4. I AM