**PRE-MESSAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **WINTER CLASSES**

1. **OPERATION HEALTHY LIVES STARTS TODAY AT 1:30 PM IN THE JR. HIGH ROOM.**
2. **CLASSES FOR MARRIED AND ENGAGED COUPLES START LATER THIS WEEK.**
3. **REGISTER ON THE ROCK APP OR AT GOTOTHEROCK.COM UNDER WINTER CLASSES.**

* **JONATHAN CAHN COMING**
* **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY TOMORROW**

The Gospel of John  
**7.2—AVOID SPIRITUAL DECEPTION – JOHN 7:11-24**

**LET’S OPEN OUR BIBLES TO JOHN 7**

**INTRODUCTION**

**LET’S READ JOHN 7:10-25 (one extra verse at the beginning & end)**

**John 7:10–25** But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private. **11** The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, “Where is he?” **12** And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, “He is a good man,” others said, “No, he is leading the people astray.” **13** Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him. **14** About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. **15** The Jews therefore marveled, saying, “How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?” **16** So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. **17** If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. **18** The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. **19** Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?” **20** The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?” **21** Jesus answered them, “I did one work, and you all marvel at it. **22** Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. **23** If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man’s whole body well? **24** Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.” **25** Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, “Is not this the man whom they seek to kill?

V11 – “The Jews”

* “The Jews = the Jewish religious leaders
* Why were “the Jews” looking for Him?
  + Look again at John 7:1

*“After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.” (ESV)*

* + They were looking for a way to kill Him, with or without a trial.

V12.1 – “the people”

* Who were the people?
  + The general population of Jews in Jerusalem

V12.2 – “much muttering about Him”

* Though He wasn’t believed by most people, it is clear that He had become part of the national dialogue

V12.3 – “some said, “He is a good man,” others said, “No, he is leading the people astray.”

* There were many varying opinions about Him
* Some people were judging Jesus inaccurately, and others accurately

Verse 24 says, “Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”

V12.4 – “muttering”

* Why does it say they were “muttering,” and not speaking? Look at verse 13.

V13 – “for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly about Him” … so they “muttered,”

* Notice, “the people” feared “the Jews”
* The religious leaders were threatening the people.

***John 9:22 (ESV)*** *“… the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.*

* They were trying to control the public conversation…
* **THEY WERE CENSORING**
* And they were trying to kill Jesus to shut Him up

V14 – “About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching.”

* Did their threats stop Jesus from pursuing His ministry? No, but the Holy Spirit did lead Him to alter “how” He approached it.

V15 – “The Jews therefore marveled, saying, “How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?”

* [From Steve Schell] *They had expected to hear a biblically-ignorant man foolishly ranting about his own clumsy ideas, but instead they found themselves listening to an intelligent, well-structured message that was full of spiritual insight. Jesus taught like a well-trained rabbi, but they knew He had not received that level of education. He had only the basic education that every Jewish child received. Beginning at the age of five or six, boys and girls growing up in first- century Judaism were taught not only at home but also in the synagogue. They learned to read, write and recite large portions of the Torah (the five books of Moses). At age ten they began to learn the Mishnah (a collection of explanations of the text), and at 13 they went through a rite of passage called being “bound to the commandments” (“Bar Mitzvah”). Then at age 15 a few of the highly motivated and gifted young men would go on to become disciples of a rabbi. Then they would follow that rabbi for years, and if they did well, they might become a rabbi themselves by about age 30 (Alfred Edersheim, Sketches of Jewish Social Life. Updated Edition, Hendrickson Publishers, 1994, pp100-101; Ray Vander Laan, “In the Dust of the Rabbi.” Vol 6, No 1, That the World May Know (DVD series), Zondervan, 2005). We have no specific information about the education Jesus received during His early years, but when we review the normal pattern of training for Jewish children, it seems reasonable to assume that He stepped out of that educational process after He reached age 13. We know that He learned Joseph’s trade (Mt 13:55) and became a carpenter or builder (Mk 6:3), but we also know that by age 12 He was already showing brilliance in His ability to understand the Scriptures (Lk 2:41-52). So it should come as no surprise that when He was in His thirties, these religious leaders were astonished as they listened to Him. They asked one another, “How does this man know rabbinical studies since He’s never been formally trained?” (paraphrase). And apparently they said it loudly enough for Jesus to hear them.*

**AND NOW JESUS IS GOING TO TEACH US HOW TO DISCERN WISE, GODLY TEACHING FROM TEACHING THAT SOUNDS GOOD, BUT IS LACED WITH DECEPTION**

V16 – “My teaching is not mine, but His who sent me.”

* The first thing Jesus points out is that His teaching is not really His… He is teaching what His Father told Him to teach.
  + This tells us about His motives… He is teaching to please the Father, not Himself
  + In other words, Jesus’ desire, or will, was to do God’s will

V17 – “If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on My own authority.”

* People with a heart to do God’s will will be able to discern whether a teaching comes from God or from the person.
* So the key to discerning a teaching is found in your own heart. If you desire to do the will of God, and are you truly submitted to Him and His will, you’ll know whether the teaching is from God or man.
* Submission precedes revelation.
* But if you’re not truly submitted to do the will of God, then you won’t be able to accurately judge whether or not a teaching is from God.

V18.1 – “The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory”

* Such speakers want something for themselves

Let’s read something from John chapter 12…

**John 12:1–8 (ESV)** Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. **2** So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. **3** Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. **4** But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, **5** “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” **6** He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. **7** Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. **8** For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”

**JESUS WASN’T FOOLED BY JUDAS OR HIS SELF-MOTIVATED MESSAGE**

**EX – I remember sitting in a church service and listening to a man preach the word of God on financial blessing. Now let me just say, I’ve been a tither all my life, and I want to do the will of God with regards to finances. But I was sitting there, and as the message went on, the man began to talk about being financially blessed by God and even extravagantly blessed… and something just didn’t sit right down inside. I was hearing God’s Word being taught, but I wasn’t hearing from God. I felt like I was being set up. And sure enough, here came the culmination of the message… “God wants to bless you, and He will do so if you sow a significant financial seed today.” I don’t want to judge, but I am responsible to hear from God and not people.**

**EX – ON THE OTHER HAND, ELIJAH TOLD THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH TO TAKE A LITTLE OF THE LAST OF THE MEAL AND OIL SHE HAD AND TO MAKE HIM A CAKE FIRST… AND IT WAS THE KEY TO HER AND HER SON’S SURVIVAL THROUGOUT THE DROUGHT AND FAMINE.**

**LISTEN AGAIN TO THE BEGINNING OF JOHN 7:18…**

18a – “The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory”

**“GLORY” DOESN’T ALWAYS MEAN MONEY**

**EX – SOMETIMES YOU LISTEN TO SOMEONE SPEAK AND YOU HEAR SUCH A CLEAR MESSAGE… *“GOD LOVES ME… HE IS MY SOURCE… HE WANTS TO HELP ME… SO I NEED TO LOOK TO HIM, HEAR HIM, HONOR HIM, OBEY HIM… AND HE’LL HELP ME”* … HOWEVER, THERE ARE OTHER TIMES WHEN YOU’RE LISTENING TO SOMEONE SPEAK, AND REGARDLESS THE WORDS BEING USED, YOU BEGIN TO HEAR ANOTHER MESSAGE COMING THROUGH… *“THIS PERSON IS MY ANSWER… THEY HAVE INSIGHT THAT’S SPECIAL… THEY ARE SPECIAL… IF I WANT TO ADVANCE, I NOT ONLY NEED GOD, BUT I NEED TO KEEP HEARING THIS PERSON.”* PEOPLE LIKE THAT OFTEN HINT—OR SAY—THAT “THEY’RE TEACHING” IS THE KEY… “FROM THEM.”**

**WATCH OUT!!!!**

V18.2 – “but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.”

* **IF THE MOTIVES ARE TO BRING GLORY TO THE ONE WHO SENT YOU:**
  + **YOU DON’T TELL PEOPLE THAT THERE’S A SPECIAL ANOINTING TODAY… AND IF WHOEVER GIVES $1,000 WILL BE EXTRA BLESSED IF GOD DIDN’T SAY THAT**
  + **YOU DON’T GIVE PEOPLE A PROPHETIC WORD TO BRING ATTENTION TO YOURSELF**
  + **YOU DON’T TEACH THINGS THAT GOD HASN’T SAID TO DRAW PEOPLE TO YOURSELF**

V19 – “Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?”

* Now remember… in John 5… Jesus healed the man by the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath… and ever since then, the religious leaders have been trying to find a way to kill Him… even without a trial, which was against the law of Moses.

V20 – “The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?”

* The crowd was confused because they thought Jesus was speaking of them.
* Some of them knew of their plot:
  + Vs25 – (ESV) “Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, ‘Is not this the man whom they seek to kill?’”

V21 – “Jesus answered them, ‘I did one work, and you all marvel at it.’”

* That’s the healing of the lame man at the pool of Bethesda
* Then Jesus explained why healing the man on the Sabbath was not a violation of the law.

VS22-23 – Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. **23** If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with Me because on the Sabbath I made a man’s whole body well?”

* **[Steve Schell’s comments]** Jesus compared His earlier healing of the paralytic man by the pool of Bethesda (Jn 5:2-9) to the act of circumcising a baby boy. In effect Jesus said, *“You’re willing to perform a surgery on a child on the Sabbath, which is a form of work. You do it in order to protect the child from being excluded from the covenant of Abraham (Ge 17:9-14), and you also do it to obey the command in the Law of Moses (Lev 12:3) even though that same Law forbids you to work on the Sabbath. Whenever a new-born child’s eighth day falls on a Sabbath, the Law expects you to break the command not to work on that day in order to obey a higher command. The need of that child to be rescued from being spiritually separated from the covenant becomes more important than your need to rest. And God approves of this. In fact He would be displeased if you did not rescue the child. So then the question I would ask you is: At what age does God want us to stop rescuing people on the Sabbath?”* (paraphrase). The person Jesus had healed by the Pool of Bethesda had been disabled for 38 years (Jn 5:5), and after healing him Jesus had tried to restore his relationship with God (Jn 5:14). And though it appears the man had refused to repent at the time (Jn 5:15), Jesus is explaining that attempting to rescue his soul was more important to God than not working on the Sabbath.

V24 – “Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”

* Jesus was pleading with both the religious leaders and the people not to use the Laws of God in a superficial way but to look deeper and try to understand why God wanted people to do certain things. If they did, they would discover that God gave His Laws to bless people not prevent them from helping each other when someone was in genuine need.
* Those who judge with “righteous judgment” do not grow harsh or legalistic.