

# THE GOSPEL *of* JOHN

## CHAPTER 7:37-53

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### **“The Cause for Division”**

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THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

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SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Separation, Division, Light & Darkness,

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**INTRODUCTION**

*to the text*

*John 7:37-53*

### **The Summation Sentence**

By His very nature, message and mission, Jesus Christ was and is the most influential person to have ever lived on earth. His life and teachings has shaped nations and peoples. It is impossible to look to Jesus Christ or to consider His name without forming an opinion or taking a position. He is the most unifying person in history or He's the most dividing. But He is the one or the other.

### **Chapter 7 is divided into Three Sections**

#### **Danger of Disbelief**

Before the Feast There was firm Disbelief

vv.1-10

# The Reason for Debate

In The Midst of the Feast There was heated Debate

vv. 11-36

## The Inevitable Result of the Gospel – Is Division!

**Matthew 10:33-36**

"But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. 34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 "For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 "and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'

## At the Conclusion of the Great Tribulation Period (That is soon coming upon this earth)

**Matthew 25:31-32**

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

## There is **Ungodly** Divisions in a Church

(This is caused by human beings following people or programs)

## There are **Godly** Divisions like Sending Out Missionaries

(This happens when people focus on God and his mission)

## Then there is the **Division** between The Church & World

(This is the result of a healthy, strong, and growing work of God)

Division within the Church must be Corrected

Division for the Church must be Desired

And Division from the World - that is the division of text before us

# The Cause for Division

## **1.) *Is that Jesus claims to be the only source* vv. 37-39**

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

### **The Cause for Division** ***Is that Jesus claims to be the only source***

#### **a.) *By contrast***

**v.37**

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

## **The Contrast**

Is between human religious ritual and divine relationship realized

## **Worship, The People & The Nation**

Had practiced their Judaism for millenniums. But had they stopped to think why they did what they did???

### **Verse 37**

On the last day, that great day of the feast

#### **Alfred Edersheim**

(a devoted Jews greatest desire was to see the "Living Water" poured out)

A.E. calculated that at the time of the feast of tabernacles (tents) was being celebrated, at the moment that the high priest was to go to the spring of Silohm and then ascend back up to the temple, Jesus was there waiting. As the people would gather, the high priest would then pour out the "spring water" and it would flow down the 15 steps there.

**The Final Day, The Last Day of Water**

# Being Poured Out But What Did It Mean?

## **Verse 37**

Jesus stood and cried out, saying,  
"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink."

**"If anyone thirsts..."**

*"Since everyone thirsts..."*

## **Do you recognize your thirst?**

Every Man is Thirsty without Jesus Christ

Jeremiah 2:13

"For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns-- broken cisterns that can hold no water."

## **There isn't water anywhere else**

**you must come to him or die in your thirst**

**let him come to Me and drink**

## **The Cause for Division**

*Is that Jesus claims to be the only source*

**b.) By comparison**

**v.38-39**

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit,

\* his heart grk 2836 koilia (koy-lee'-ah);

the "hollow", the cavity, the abdomen; ones inner core: a man's belly, a woman's womb.

\* will flow

grk 4482 rheo (hreh'-o);

issue forth, to spring out of with force or power

**“flow rivers of living water!”**

The Desert is a Beautiful Place

*As long as you're not thirsty*

If you're thirsty and you're in the desert, the desert becomes a living hell

**And life is like that for many people**

**THIS LIFE CAN BE A DESERT**

**The Desert of the Soul**

Billy Bray Whistled

(hughes pg. 218)

In the 1800's there was a man named Billy Bray who was a Christian and he was a miner. It was said of Billy Bray that he had led hundreds of men to Christ in his life. Every day, as he was lowered into the mine shift with the other men, Billy would pray...

“Lord, he would pray, if any of us men will be killed today or die, or be buried alive, please let it be me rather than these men. Because I know you, and you know me, but as for these men Father, they do not know you, so let them live until they do know you so they can be happy like me”

**The Cause for Division**

***Is that Jesus claims to be the only source***

**c.) *By consolation***

**v.39**

But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; **for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

**“Consolation”**

encouragement, refreshment, relief, rest, revitalization, recovery

### 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

### Exodus 17:1-6

Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?" 3 And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!" 5 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. 6 "Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall **strike (Kill, Bruise, Fatally Wound)** the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

## The Cause for Division

### 2.) *All of mankind must decide on Christ*

*vv.40-43*

40 Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." 41 Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? 42 **"Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"** 43 So there was a division among the people because of Him.

### *All of mankind must decide on Christ*

#### a.) *By what people say*

*v.40-41*

40 Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is **the Prophet.**" 41 Others said, "This is **the Christ.**" But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee?"

# This is the Defining Question

## Who is He?

I don't want someone's opinion on what is an absolute  
I want the facts about that absolute

- **Sailors,** They Study the Sea
- **Pilots,** They Master the Principles of Flight
- **Doctors,** They Become Experts on Anatomy

**Your Opinion, as to Who Jesus is  
Does not affect me in the least – but it does you!**

**What are the Facts about Jesus Christ**

After having studied the facts, and examined the evidence,  
And reviewed the eyewitness testimony of those at the scene,

Acts 1:3

to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering **by many infallible proofs**, being seen by them for forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Romans 15:4

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

2 Peter 1:19

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

**The Cause for Division**  
***All of mankind must decide on Christ***

"Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"

## The Bible Says...

Mark 15:27-28

With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. 28 So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors."

Luke 24:25-27

Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

John 19:35-37

And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. 36 For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." 37 And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

He was a direct descendant of king David  
and must be born in Bethlehem

## The Cause for Division

***All of mankind must decide on Christ***

So there was a **division among the people** because of Him. I had the opportunity to stand on the continental divide. At that very spot, whenever it rains or snows, all the water that flows in the creeks, streams and rivers flow in opposite directions from that point on. Some of the water flows west, some of it flows east – divided waters

# “There was division among the people because of Him”

\* **division** grk 4978 schisma (skhis'-mah);  
a split, gap or tear in the fabric, earth, or paper

Matthew 16:13-15

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Con conversationally,

do you talk about him as you would any other friend

Or do you whisper and turn red in the face when someone speaks freely of him.

Luke 22:34

Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will have denied three times that you even know Me."

# Peter!!!

## The Cause for Division

**3.) *Is that Jesus reveals the heart of God* vv. 44-53**

**a.) *By capturing your attention* v.44-46**

44 Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. 45 Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" 46 The officers answered, "**No man ever spoke like this Man!**"

The ones sent to arrest Jesus had no biased interest in him.

Thus they were open and fair-minded  
**Jesus Captures Your Attention**

By what you see around you

By what is happening around you

By what you hear around you

**The Cause for Division**  
*Is that Jesus reveals the heart of God*

**b.) By challenging your resolve**

**v.47-49**

Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? 48 **"Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him?"**

49 "But this crowd that does not know the law - is accursed."

**Jesus Wants You to Think for Yourself**

with Bible in heart and hand - you can relax

**The Heart of God Toward You**

**c.) By checking your beliefs**

**v.50-53**

50 Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, 51 "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?" 52 They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." 53 And everyone went to his own house.

**Verse 53**

everyone went to his own house

# they went away thinking and reasoning

If Only I Could Break Through to You Today

To provoke you to think, to ...

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## Going Your Own Way

And Denying Jesus Christ by Your Actions

Joel 3:13-14

Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great 14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Matthew 21:44-46

"And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder. 45 Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them 46 But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.

## Hey, who do you think Jesus was / is?

## The Cause for Division

John 7:37-53