

# In The Beginning Was The Word

## John 7:19-31

### **INTRODUCTION: JESUS ENCOUNTERS CONFLICT WITH THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS. (part 2)**

The intensity of the Jews arguments was increasing. They were constantly following Jesus at every turn to see what he would do next and they were always ready to judge him for the things that he was doing.

They had little regard for what Jesus had claimed to be, and in fact that just drove them more towards a mandate to kill him. Jesus was now a great threat to the safety of their religion (Ju'daism).

The message this morning is a follow up to the message from the last Lords day as we continue to look at John 7:19-31.

This passage of scripture points out for us to see that the main goal of the Jews was to see Jesus put to death.

They had started very much earlier in the Lords ministry to point fingers at him, and accused him of heresy and many other things. Yet when the Lord confronts them direct they try and evade his questions and answers.

So entrenched was the Law in them, that they felt they just had to do better. This they tried to achieve by adding other laws to the laws that God had given to them through Moses.

#### **1. Ask yourself this question?**

2. If Jesus could answer and speak miracles, and know every letter of the Law, and perform the things they accused him of doing, then surely that would take a force greater than man to achieve.
3. I say this in a manner to show that if Jesus performed these things then he had to be God, or someone with the same powers of God. We know man does not have these powers so who else could it be.
4. They accused Jesus of having a demon in him. Accusing him of being nothing less than a devil.
5. Even Satan does not have these powers to proclaim life everlasting in healing a person in the name of God.
6. Satan always seeks to destroy so how could they accuse Jesus who was doing good to be anything else but God.

- This was Jesus claim against the Jews when he spoke to them in verse 19 of our text in John 7.

**<sup>19</sup> Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?**

1. The Lord leaves them with one reminder and one question.
2. **Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?**
3. They were not capable of keeping the Law.
4. They were about to break the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment.

**Exodus 20:13** <sup>13</sup> Thou shalt not kill.

1. They were just about to break the Law again, as Jesus said to them **Why go ye about to kill me?**
  - The Law is hard to keep, that is why Jesus came.

The opening verse already tells us that they wanted to kill Jesus.

**John 7:1** **After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.**

- So how can the Jews then claim in verse 20 that they knew nothing about someone plotting to kill Jesus?

Let's begin with our text this morning.

<sup>20</sup> **The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?**

1. Collectively it was the people and the Jews that had begun to sow discord about Jesus.
2. By saying the things they did openly in public like "**Thou hast a devil**", it gave the Jews an excuse.
3. The Jews tried to demonize the Lord?
4. By saying that he had a devil in him, it was to try and lower his status of His earlier claim that he was the Son of God the Father.
5. In verse 13 of our text we see that there were not just Jews present but other people as well. <sup>13</sup> **Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.**
6. The foolish answer that the Jews gave Jesus when they said "**who goeth about to kill thee?**" was nothing short of a lie from them.
7. They themselves had said earlier in John 5 that they wanted to kill him, so what a lie to say to Jesus about who wanted to kill him?
8. They knew very well it was the truth. But people say things like that only to try and cover up their own lies and dilemma. Putting or shifting the blame is always a tactic people use to get themselves out of the spotlight.
  - This would not be the last time that the Jews would accuse Jesus of being devil possessed.
  - The Jews would continue in their defense to demonize Jesus again and again in the scriptures to further their agenda which was to have him put to death.

**They did this in John 8:47-49 as well as in John 8:52.**

### John 8:47-49

<sup>47</sup> He that is of God heareth God's words: **ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.**

<sup>48</sup> Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, **Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?**

<sup>49</sup> **Jesus answered, I have not a devil;** but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.

### John 8:52

<sup>52</sup> **Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil.** Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

1. In Jewish Law, if a man was convicted of heresy he could be stoned or put to death.
2. So because the Jews wanted him dead they would pursue this avenue with a zealous attitude.
3. The concept according to the Jews was to disprove who Jesus claimed to be.
4. But in this concept lay a divided public opinion which would later be put to the vote.
5. But as we look to some future passages in John we see this in fact taking place. (John 10:19-21).

### John 10:19-21

<sup>19</sup> There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings.

<sup>20</sup> And **many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad;** why hear ye him?

<sup>21</sup> **Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil.** Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?

6. A great defense is always an offence. True to form the opposing people in Jesus defense counteracted the Jews by saying can a devil open the eyes of a blind person as we see in John 9:1.
7. It does not matter what miracle the Lord performed they would continue to mock him and accuse Him of heresy.

<sup>21</sup> **Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel.**

1. With reference to this verse Jesus is talking about how the Jews viewed his miracles. In particular one in John 5:8-18.
2. The Jews regarded anything that was done on the Sabbath to be work. So Jesus uses this "phrase" of **work** to describe their accusation to him.

3. The work that Jesus had performed was on the Sabbath and that is what they are referring to. However the work Jesus did was not work at all in Gods eyes but to bring someone to salvation.
4. The Jews had laws of their own, which they would determine what was work to them and what was not. They in reality had a double standard. A standard that they would apply to themselves and a standard that they would apply to others.
5. They were referring to what Jesus had done in John 5:8-18. The healing of the lame man at Bethesda on the Sabbath.
6. Don't lose sight of the fact that the Jews were trying to Demonize Jesus.

<sup>22</sup> **Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man.**

1. Prior to the giving of the Law circumcision was already sanctioned by God that is a fact as noted in verse 22.
2. And we see this conformation in the OT in Genesis 17:10.

**Genesis 17:10** <sup>10</sup> This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; **Every man child among you shall be circumcised.**

3. Circumcision was to be performed before the eighth day on every Israelite male born before the Lord. That was Gods commandment to Abraham and passed on to the fathers of Israel. It had to be performed as an identification and as a separation of Gods people to Himself.
4. It was the Jews who would also perform this even on the Sabbath and not class it as work. (An exclusion if you will by them, but it was **still work** none the less.)
5. This was what the Lord was identifying to them so that they could see that their rules were ridiculous and not scriptural to place their laws above the laws of God.
6. The Lords point was they were still doing work.
7. It was not wrong to do it, but the Lords point was it was on the Sabbath also.

<sup>23</sup> **If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?**

1. The Lords point was if the Law of Moses was not to be broken and circumcision was to be performed then the Jews would even go so far as on a Sabbath day to perform circumcision.
2. Then the question was: "why would they be angry at Him for healing a person even if it happened to be on a Sabbath day".
3. After all it was all "work" being performed. If that was the case then they should also be found guilty of violating and breaking the Sabbath day.
4. So why was it to be any different?
5. Here is the reason why they went against Jesus in the first place.

### **John 5:8-18**

<sup>8</sup> Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

<sup>9</sup> And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on **the same day was the sabbath.**

<sup>10</sup> The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, **It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.**

<sup>11</sup> He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk. <sup>12</sup> Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? <sup>13</sup> And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. <sup>14</sup> Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. <sup>15</sup> The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.

<sup>16</sup> **And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.**

<sup>17</sup> But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

<sup>18</sup> **Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.**

6. They were judging, but at the same time did not want to be judged.

7. Therefore this is what the Lord replied to them in verse 24.

<sup>24</sup> **Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.**

1. Whilst they thought themselves to be holding the Law of Moses, they were in fact breaking the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment themselves, as well as looking to break the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment to kill Jesus.
2. Our Lords words were judge not according to what appears to be right, but judge what is right.
3. Many things may look good and right in our own eyes but fall short in the eyes of the Lord when we do things that are not biblical.
4. The Jews had in reality broken the Sabbath day themselves.
5. **Listen to this now:** HAD THE JEWS OR PEOPLE TODAY DONE THE VERY SAME THING THEN ON THE SABBATH, WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN JUDGED, BECAUSE THE LORD IS THE LORD OF THE SABBATH AND HAS FULFILLED THE SABBATH IN HIMSELF. THEY AND WE ARE NO LONGER UNDER THE LAW BUT UNDER GRACE.
6. JESUS' POINT IS THE SABBATH OF THAT DAY HAS PAST BY BECAUSE JESUS HAS ALREADY COME WITH HIS ATONING SACRIFICE.

**Matthew 12:8** <sup>8</sup> For the **Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.**

7. In this verse of Mathew 12:8 we see that **Jesus himself declares to be head of even the Sabbath.**
8. The bible says that Jesus is Lord of all so how can there be any exceptions.

**Acts 10:36**<sup>36</sup> The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

9. As a result of the answer that Jesus gave the Jews in verse 24, it escalated further into a decisive act of intended murder.

**25 Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill?**

1. All knowingly Jesus was right that their intended plan of murder was already unfolding to kill Him and Jesus was aware of it?
2. The word of killing Jesus was already on the streets of Jerusalem.
3. They began to indentify Jesus as the one who should be killed.

**26 But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?**

1. Jesus was not afraid of them. Jesus cannot ever be afraid, because he is God.
2. Even with lingering death threats and imminent arrest, the Lords Words were that of defining Sin in their lives and making himself known amongst men so that they could be with excuse when the judgment day would come.
3. As the Lord spoke boldly, the people were too afraid to say anything fearing what the Jewish leaders might do.
4. They only spoke amongst themselves, highlighting that Jesus may be the Christ.
5. They were not sure if the “rulers knew” if this was the Christ mentioned in the OT.

**27 Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is.**

1. The people acknowledge however that Jesus is just a man, and from the early scripture of John they identify him as the son of Mary and Joseph who they know. Therefore they know him as a man and repudiate his claim to be God.
2. They said amongst themselves “**Howbeit we know this man whence he is**”.
3. Jesus was an ordinary man to them.
4. Their argument for this was that if and when the Christ did come no man would know it? **but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth when he is.**
5. Did they not miss reading the O.T.? Because Micah 5:2 speaks of Jesus.

**Micah 5:2**<sup>2</sup> 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.

6. Only Jesus can be of everlasting. Did they not know that? I Guess not.
7. The Jews and the peoples statement in verse 27 of our text say that no man can know when Christ cometh. They were wrong. Micah had told them they can know.
8. Guess what? They did not want to know?

**28 Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.**

1. Even as Jesus would cry and plead with them in verse 28 they did not want to believe.
2. Jesus would have pointed to Micah 5:2 and many other verses in the OT for them to know, but still they would not believe.
3. Both groups the Jews and the people were being taught by Jesus in the temple.
4. Both groups denied him.
5. Denying the facts the 2 groups were told by Jesus that they did know who he was, but did not want to acknowledge it.
6. Because they did not want to believe, Jesus concludes with this verse telling them that then they do not even know God the Father who sent Him.
7. It must have been very sorrowful for the Lord when he saw the people deny him.
8. That sorrow is the same sorrow he feels when people deny him today.

<sup>29</sup> **But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.**

1. Jesus is a testimony of not only Himself, but also of His Father who sent Him.
2. Whether people believe or not it does not change the fact of who Jesus or God the Father is?
3. Whether you believe or not, Jesus still knows what is true.
4. A reminder to the Jews and the people there and now. Jesus declares His deity to all that He is from God the Father and His Father sent Him to do His work.
5. No one therefore can deny that Jesus is God.

<sup>30</sup> **Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.**

1. God had put "**a restraint**" on the ability for man to make a move to satisfy their agenda.
2. No man could lay a hand on Jesus, who is God, when he willed it that way that day.
3. This is what happened when "Jesus restrained those men" from their intentions because Jesus had not finished what He had come to do. Which was His Fathers will.
4. That is why it says His time was not yet come?
5. Jesus would have to lay down His own life. Man could not just take it from Him.

**John 10:17-18** <sup>17</sup> Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. <sup>18</sup> No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

<sup>31</sup> **And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?**

1. Many people believed on Jesus. But I am sad to say for the wrong reasons.
2. Firstly they could not have believed Jesus for who He said he was, and that He was God.
3. Because of the statements made in verse 31 they are lost.

4. For that very reason, if a man cannot believe that Jesus is God, and only believes that Jesus is a good person or a person that can do all these miracles etc... and not believe that He is God, then they still remain lost in unbelief.
  5. Only when we truly believe that Jesus is the Christ and that He is God, and that He is part of the triune Godhead, and that he does not act alone but in accordance with His Father, then and then only can we truly believe and come to the saving knowledge of His grace and mercy by truth faith in Him and Him alone.
  6. Anything else and you are lost. **You may as well believe in a Rock.**
  7. They were looking for “another Christ” one who would do more miracles. As we see the verse confirm this. **When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?**
- A man will remain lost and condemned to Hell unless he abides in Gods terms and conditions. Not rules made by man of any sort.

PRAYER.....CLOSE