

**What Do You Want?**

# John 7:17

- “True education flowers at the point when delight falls in love with responsibility. If you love something, you want to look after it” – Pullman
- We pursue what we love...
- Jn.7:17
  - Love it
  - Live it
  - Learn it

## John 7:1-18

1: Jews sought to kill Jesus (5:18)

2-9: His brothers – unbelief. Awkward...

10: Jesus traveled apart from caravan

11: many sought Him for wrong reasons (1)

12-13: Lord's sword (Mt.10:34)

14-15: skill in teaching – shocked 'the Jews'  
(Ac.4:13)

## The Jews (14-15)

Jews are confronted by Word in flesh, yet view Him as uneducated (not accredited)

- Scribal authority came from past scholars, Mt.7:28-29
- Jesus delighted crowds, outraged Jewish authorities

# The Jews

“If anyone has learned the Scripture and the Mishna but has not served as a student of the Learned he is one of the people of the land. If he has learned the Scripture but not the Mishna he is an uneducated man. If he has learned neither the Scripture nor the Mishna the Scripture says of him: ‘I sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with seed of men and seed of cattle’” – Meir

Jn.7:49

# The value of their charge

- Refutes skeptics who try to bring Him into contact with Egyptian wisdom, Essene philosophy, etc., without a trace of proof.
- He never quotes books except **OT**, never cites secular history, poetry, etc.
- He speaks as one who not only ***knows*** truth, but *is* truth.

## John 7:

16: He had to be *someone's* disciple.

- But not in the way they think
- He contrasts His teaching and authority (Father) with Jews (former rabbis)
- Mt.11:27, all things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him

17-18, promise. He knew Father's will...

# I. The Hope of John 7:17



# If anyone

- Unlimited (anyone)
- Conditional promise
  - No one needs rabbinical or seminary training to understand word of God

# Wants

- We usually do what we want to do
- “I want” often implies selfishness, greed (Mk.6:25)
  - Jn.7: unselfish service, obedience
  - “Want to” is the necessary condition for understanding the doctrine of Christ
    - Not determined by intellect, but by desire to obey

# To do

- “I am going to maintain that there is no act at all that any man in the OT time or the New ever had to perform in order to be saved. Salvation is received by faith, and faith is the only thing you can do w/o doing anything” (Ben Bogard, Hardeman debate, 93)
- Ac.9:6

# His will

- John 8:44
  - The will we seek to do determines our parentage
  - Jews had questioned His competence as a teacher . . . .
    - He questions their competence as hearers! (It's a *two-way street*)

# He will know

- 3:21, do the truth . . . come to the light . . .
- 8:31-32, disciples indeed . . . know truth . . .  
make you free
  - Those who will to do His will, will know His will

# Concerning the teaching

- 6:44-45, this (*teaching*) is the way God draws people to Him

# Whether from God or I speak own authority

- He is not making it up . . .
- Jews blame Jesus for breaking Sabbath, even as they try to kill Him
  - They violate very law they claim to keep
  - Real problem: do not want to do God's will

I. The Hope of John 7:17

II. The Heart of The Matter



# Dishonest heart, Mt.13:10-17

- 10-11: why teach in parables?
  - To reveal, 16-17
  - To conceal (from dishonest). Mt.7:6
- 12: use it or lose it.
- 13-14: history repeats.
- 15: (Is.6:9-10): Isaiah must teach . . .
  - People would reject it
  - People would become worse by it

## Dishonest heart, Mt.13:10-17

- Heart: grown dull, make fat, then impervious, dull.
  - Our *pachy*derm, thick-skinned (elephant, rhino).
  - Their *heart* is hardened, insensitive: truth can't penetrate.
  - Water resistant watches, raincoats

## Dishonest heart, Mt.13:10-17

- Ears: dull of hearing, heavy; with difficulty.  
Lit., “*they heard heavily.*” 2 Tim.4:4
- Eyes: closed, shut.
  - “There are none so blind as those who *will not see.*” Jn.12:37-40

# Honest heart, Lk.8:15

- Jn.1, Nathanael, overcame personal prejudice
- Jn.4, woman, overcame racial prejudice
- Jn.9, blind man, overcame religious prejudice

# Seeking heart, Jn.7:17

- Nicodemus, Jn.3 ... 7 ... 19
- Bereans, Ac.17:11-12, love of truth
  - Open-minded, honest, Ps.119:18
  - Receptive, willing to learn, accept...
  - Eager, ready to embrace truth
  - Studious, hard work, Ec.12:12
  - Persistent (daily)
  - Independent
  - Obedient, 12

## Obedient heart, Ro.6:17

- You obeyed from the heart – wholeheartedly, willingly – a most willing slavery (= Jn.7:17)
- That form of doctrine – obeyed (10:16) pattern of teaching
  - Without teaching, what would we obey?
  - “Form” – model, as Hb.8:5 –
    - Moses had to adhere to the pattern shown him

## Obedient heart, Ro.6:17

You obeyed from heart that “form” of doctrine

- “We could translate, ‘the type, form, model of teaching,’ that constitutes Christian doctrine; but it is preferable to interpret ‘the rule of doctrine’ that constitutes the gospel, since this is a matter of a normative tradition... The nuance would be that of a sort of yardstick according to which the authenticity of the faith could be verified; the opposite of individual conceptions, fantasies, even customs” – Ceslas Spicq