

Sermon Notes

"Messiah or Deceptive Fraud – Mixed Reviews"

John 7:1-52

July 31, 2016

7. What point was raised by Nicodemus, and how did the authorities react to it (7:50-52)? What attitude would you say characterized the authorities?

8. Jesus cautioned against judging his identity by mere appearances (7:24). How would you tell someone to go about deciding who Jesus was?

Let's Pray:

Praise God the Father for sending the Holy Spirit as the true living water that satisfies our inner thirst. Praise Jesus for never losing sight of His heavenly origin, the nature and timing of His mission, and His heavenly goal.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 7-31-16

Questions adapted from Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., *John: Life Change Series*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 83-92; Jim Petersen, *Living Proof*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1989, pp. 229-30; James Galvin, ed., et al., *New Testament Lesson Maker*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 166-68.

Getting Started:

1. When have you judged someone or something on appearance alone only to find out later that you were wrong?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read John 7:1-52. The theme of this chapter is the controversy that continually went on over the question, "Who is Jesus?" List the factors that contributed to the people's bafflement on this question, as indicated in the following verses:

John 7:14-15
John 7:19-20
John 7:25-27
John 7:31
John 7:40-44
John 7:46-49
John 7:52

3. Do you think people have similar misconceptions to deal with today before they can come to understand Jesus Christ? What are some of those misconceptions?

4. What was wrong with the people's reasons for rejecting Jesus in the following verses?

John 7:27 (see 7:28-29)

John 7:41-42

5. What impresses you about the offer Jesus makes in 7:37-39?
 - a. To whom did He make it?
 - b. What kind of thirst was He talking about? (See John 4:13-14, 6:35.)
 - c. Exactly what was He offering? (See John 14:16-17, 25-26.)
 - d. How does one respond positively to this offer? (John 1:12-13; 3:16; 4:10; 5:27; 6:40; 20:31)
6. The guards were impressed with Christ's words. How did the authorities try to diminish this impression (John 7:48-49)?