

John Lesson # 8 Articles

Because Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath, the Jews said He was not from God. They called Him demon-possessed (v. 20) and even talked of killing Him; but God's time was not ready (v. 30). The Jews debated five different topics as they discussed Jesus at the feast:

A. *His character* (vv. 10–13).

Some called Him “good,” others said He was a “deceiver.” Why were they confused? Because they feared the Jewish leaders. “The fear of man brings a snare,” warns Prov. 29:25 (NKJV). Christ's character was so spotless that when they finally did arrest Him, they had to get false witnesses to speak against Him. Pilate, Judas, and even a Roman soldier all pronounced Him faultless.

B. *His doctrine* (vv. 14–18).

The Jews were amazed at Christ's spiritual knowledge because He had never attended their schools or studied with a rabbi. Education is a blessing, but it is better to be taught by God than to borrow the ideas of men. Christ's doctrine comes from heaven; man's teaching comes from his darkened mind. Paul warns of what is falsely called “knowledge [science]” (1 Tim. 6:20, see also Col. 2:8ff). John 7:17 could be read, “if any man is willing to do My will ...” A willingness to obey is the secret of learning God's truth. F.W. Robertson said, “Obedience is the organ of spiritual knowledge.”

C. *His works* (vv. 19–24).

They pretended to defend the Law by accusing Him of working on the Sabbath; but He showed that their desire to kill Him was contrary to the very Law they revered. How inconsistent are people who oppose Christ and reject His Word! A man can be circumcised on the Sabbath, but he cannot be healed on the Sabbath! Like many today, they were shallow, judging by appearance, not truth.

D. *His origin* (vv. 25–31).

Verse 27 is not a contradiction of v. 42. The Jews knew where the Messiah would be born, but they also knew that His birth would be supernatural (Isa. 7:14). In other words, they would not know where He was from (see v. 28). The record states that Christ was born of the virgin Mary, but the Jews would not believe this. John 8:41 suggests that they accused Jesus of being born in sin; Mary's condition before she married Joseph would perhaps make people say this. In vv. 28–29, Christ affirms that He was sent from the Father and that if they knew the Father, they would know the Son.

E. *His warning* (vv. 32–36).

The “little while” that Christ spoke of lasted about six months. It is important that people seek the Lord “while He may be found” (Isa. 55:6). Many lost sinners who reject Christ today will seek Him tomorrow and He will be gone from them (Prov. 1:24–28). The Jews were ignorant of spiritual truth and thought He was talking about going to the Jews scattered among the nations. Because they were unwilling to obey the truth, they could not know the truth; they argued with Christ and lost their souls.¹

7:5 — For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

Jesus' younger brothers had grown up with Him in Nazareth, and while they might have heard about Jesus' extraordinary birth, they did not believe—until after the resurrection. Only then did they come to faith.²

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (pp. 229–231). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Jn 7:5). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.