

JESUS BY JOHN

A Divided House

APPETIZER: Words that Divide

"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

John 7:37-38

Context is Everything

- Festival of Sukkot (Festival of Tabernacles)
- Growing animosity toward Jesus by Jewish Leaders
- The Teaching of Jesus is the miracle

DINE IN: Ears to Hear, Hearts to Understand

John 7:40-53

The Crowd (v 40-44)
Prophet vs Messiah

Deut. 18:15

The crowd's doubt is based on the belief that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem (**Micah 5:2**)

The Guards vs. The Pharisees (v 45-49)

...Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him. (v 32)

"No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards replied. (v 46)

"There is no mention of the chaotic crowd, or the political ramifications that might result from their inability to act, or even the escape of Jesus; the only thing that stopped them was his word."

Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, Klink

Pharisees

"...He has deceived you also?" (v 47)

The Pharisees response to the guards deepen the split between themselves and the "people".

The Pharisees created a divide by:

- Holding a higher knowledge of the Law
- Mockery
- Instilling fear
- Being closed off to questions

Nicodemus (v 50-52)

"Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?" (v 51)

The Progression of a faith journey

Conversation
In the Night

John 3



Courage to
openly question

John 7



Honouring
Jesus

John 19

TAKE OUT: Seeing Jesus

John 1:10-14

Do you accept who Jesus is and what he says?

Questions to Consider this week:

- When was I last stopped by Jesus words?
- When I hear the words of Jesus, what emotions do they evoke in me?
- Am I tempted to create a list of who's "in" and who's "out"?

NEXT WEEK: Special Guest Dr. Terry LeBlanc!

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Recap the message. Talk about what stood out to you and any questions you may have.
2. Share as a group about any examples of “words that divide” that you can think of (humorous or serious). What makes these words divisive?
3. Re-read the words of Jesus from John **7:33-39**. What about his teaching caused such a divide?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

4. Read together **John 7:40-53**.
 - a. Divide into 4 pairs or groups. Have each pair or group take on the role of a character from this passage. (Crowd, Guards, Pharisees and Nicodemus). Talk with your group about how you would have experienced and seen the story from your character’s point of view. Take one minute each and re-tell this passage from your character’s point of view.
5. What does the crowd mean when some of them say, “he is the prophet”?
 - a. Look up **Matthew 16:13-14** for some prophets that Jesus was mistaken for.
 - b. Why were they expecting a prophet? Check out **Deut. 18:15**. Discuss this significance of this verse.
6. Read **John 1:10-13** and discuss how **John 7** is an example of this.

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

7. What was it about Jesus that discouraged the guards from grabbing him? Discuss some of the words of Jesus that have been life changing for you.
8. Pray together that Jesus words will continue to change your life.