Division of the People Over Jesus (John 7:40-53)

Scripture Text:

- 40. Some of the people therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, "This certainly is the Prophet."
- 41. Others were saying, "This is the Christ." Still others were saying, "Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He?
- 42. Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?"
- 43. So a division occurred in the crowd because of Him.
- 44. Some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him.
- 45. The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?"
- 46. officers answered, "Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks."
- 47. The Pharisees then answered them, "You have not also been led astray, have you?
- 48. No one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he?
- 49. But this crowd which does not know the Law is accursed."
- 50. Nicodemus (he who came to Him before, being one of them) said to them,
- 51. "Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?"
- 52. They answered him, "You are not also from Galilee, are you? Search, and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee."
- 53. Everyone went to his home. (JOHN 7:40-53 NASB)

Outline:

- I. Opinions of the People Concerning Jesus' Identity & Purpose (vv.40-42)
- II. Divisions Amongst the People Form Concerning Jesus (v43)
- III. The Chief Priest and Pharisees Want to Seize Jesus (vv.44-45)
- IV. The Officer's Response to the Chief Priest and Pharisees (v.46)
- V. The Chief Priest and Pharisee's Response to the Officers (v.47-49)
- VI. Nicodemus and Righteous Judgement (vv.50-51)
- VII. The Chief Priest and Pharisee's Unrighteous Judgement (vv.52-53)

Worksheet:

	nly is the Prophet.'" (v.40)
i.	Some of the people were convinced that Jesus was the
	sent by, to speak for
ii.	What is the significance of "the Prophet" as apposed to "a prophet"? [discussion]
	ers were saying, 'This is the Christ.' Still others were saying, 'Surely the
	is not going to come from Galilee, is He?' (v.41)
i.	Were those who said "This is the Christ" unsure about His identity or did
	they seem to believe that He was in fact the Christ?
ii.	Compare this to the phraseology of the Samaritan woman in John 4:29. What is the difference?

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	does this say about their knowledge of where Jesus was actually born?
iv.	What does this say about their opinion of Galileans?
	. "Othe Christ i. ii.

and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?"" (v.42)

	i.	This verse shows that the people knew what the scripture says about the
		, who He was a of and where He was to be
		from, namely the village of
	ii.	The people and the religious leaders had no knowledge of where Jesus was from, but rather assumed that He was from Galilee because of what?
II.	Divisions Amo	ongst the People Form Concerning Jesus
•••		ivision occurred in the crowd because of Him. (v.43)
		Did the people in the crowd divide into separate groups based on one key
		factor? (YES or NO)
	ii.	Why or why not?
	b. What	was the basis for the lines of division that occurred between the people?
	Division	al Line Example or Explanation

Ш.		est and Pharisees Want to Seize Jesus
		e of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him." (v.44)
	l.	Why did some of the people want to seize Jesus?
	ii.	Why didn't they seize Jesus at this time? [hint: time, speech]
	11.	
	b. "The o	officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to
		'Why did you not bring Him?'" (v.45)
		Who asked the question in this verse?
		Who was asked the question in this verse?
	iii.	Who where these "officers"?

Who where they?	Description/Explanation
Which of the	
Twelve Tribes were	
they from?	
:	
What where they?	
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What was their	In the temple grounds:
duty?	
	Outside the temple grounds:
	e a totale the temple greathas.
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- IV. The Officer's Response to the Chief Priest and Pharisees
 - a. "The officers answered, 'Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks." (v.46)
 - i. What was the rationale given by the officers as to why they did not fulfil their duty?
 - ii. Was there decision to NOT "seize" Jesus based more on their "duty" as officers of the Sanhedrin and temple or more so on their understanding of and spiritual convictions regarding the scriptures? [discussion]
 - b. What was the conviction of the officers who were sent and expected to "seize" Jesus? (v.32) [discussion]
- V. The Chief Priest and Pharisee's Response to the Officers
 - a. "The Pharisees then answered them, You have not also been led astray, have you? (v.47)
 - i. Compare the tone of what the "religious elite" (Chief Priest and Pharisee's) said in this verse with what they said in verse 20.

	ii. What does this say about their spiritual condition? (qualitatively quantitatively speaking)	and and
	b. "No one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he?" (v.48)	
	i. Who was the standard for Orthodoxy as it relates to identifying Christ and Messiah in the eyes of the "rulers or Pharisees"?	the true
	ii. Was there truly "no one of the rulers or Pharisees" who believe 3:1-21, 7:50-51; Mark 15:43; Matt 27:57; John 19:38; Acts 5:33-	· ·
	c. "But this crowd which does not know the Law is accursed." (v.49)	
	i. What were the chief priest and Pharisees actually saying about believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God, protection the Messiah when they said they were "accursed"?	
	ii. How does this point of view stand when compared to the words and Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit? (John 5:24; Ro 10) [discussion]	
VI.	Nicodemus and Righteous Judgement	
	a. Nicodemus (he who came to Him before, being one of them) said to the	em, (v.50)
	 i. John includes this information as a stark contrast or contradiction the chief priest and Pharisees has espoused earlier. (v.48) 	n to what
	ii. Did those of the chief priest and Pharisee who spoke and asked questions, speak for the entire Sanhedrin?	these
	iii. Compare to the words of Peter in John 6:66-71 when he presum speak for his collective group. [discussion]	ed to
	b. "Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and know	what he
	is doing, does it?" (v.51)	
	i. What "Law" was Nicodemus referring to?	
	ii. "Our Law" is not the same as "The Law" of Moses.	
VII.	The Chief Priest and Pharisee's Unrighteous Judgement	
	 a. They answered him, "You are not also from Galilee, are you? Search, an that no prophet arises out of Galilee." (v.52) 	a see

	i.	What was the judgement of the Pharisees based on?		
		ii.	What methods of persuasion did the Chief Priest and the Pharisees try to use on Nicodemus?	
	b.	[Ever	yone went to his home. (v.53)	
		i.	John 7:53-8:11 may not have been part of the original text of John, but was added later	
		ii.	Contextual analysis of these verses support the notion that they where not written by John just as in the case of Mark 16:9-20	
		III.	Because of the uncertainty surrounding these verses which are missing from the oldest reliable manuscripts it is important when reading them to judge them in light of what the rest of scripture teaches and not form doctrines solely from these passages.	
Notes:				