

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

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### 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 (v.43)
- 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:

- I. Opinions of the People Concerning Jesus' Identity & Purpose
  - a. "Some of the people therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, 'This certainly 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]*  
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\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. "Others were saying, 'This is the Christ.' Still others were saying, 'Surely the Christ 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?  
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\_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. Compare this to the phraseology of the Samaritan woman in John 4:29. What is the difference?  
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\_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. Others argued that the Christ would surely not come from Galilee. What does this say about their knowledge of where Jesus was actually born?  
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    - iv. What does this say about their opinion of Galileans?  
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\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, 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?

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\_\_\_\_\_

II. Divisions Amongst the People Form Concerning Jesus

- a. So a division occurred in the crowd because of Him. (v.43)
  - i. 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?

Divisional Line	Example or Explanation

III. The Chief Priest and Pharisees Want to Seize Jesus

- a. "Some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him." (v.44)
  - i. Why did some of the people want to seize Jesus?

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\_\_\_\_\_

- ii. Why didn't they seize Jesus at this time? *[hint: time, speech]*

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b. "The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, 'Why did you not bring Him?'" (v.45)

- i. Who asked the question in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. Who was asked the question in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. Who where these "officers"?



- ii. What does this say about their spiritual condition? (qualitatively and quantitatively speaking)
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- 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 the true Christ and Messiah in the eyes of the "rulers or Pharisees"?
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- ii. Was there truly "no one of the rulers or Pharisees" who believed? (John 3:1-21, 7:50-51; Mark 15:43; Matt 27:57; John 19:38; Acts 5:33-42)
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- 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 those who believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God, promised the Messiah when they said they were "accursed"?
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- ii. How does this point of view stand when compared to the words of Jesus and Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit? (John 5:24; Rom 10:9-10) *[discussion]*
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VI. Nicodemus and Righteous Judgement

- a. Nicodemus (he who came to Him before, being one of them) said to them, (v.50)
    - i. John includes this information as a stark contrast or contradiction to what the chief priest and Pharisees has espoused earlier. (v.48)
    - ii. Did those of the chief priest and Pharisee who spoke and asked these questions, speak for the entire Sanhedrin? \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. Compare to the words of Peter in John 6:66-71 when he presumed to speak for his collective group. *[discussion]*
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- b. "Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?" (v.51)

- i. What "Law" was Nicodemus referring to?
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- 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, and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee." (v.52)

