

## Episode #1-30 - Demon or Divine?

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. Today we will see if the people and the Jews at the feast of booths will believe in Christ.

III. The Jews and the Lord. John 7:11-19.

- A. V.14. Stays in secret first half of feast. Teaches in temple grounds (*hieron*).
- B. V.15. He had Divine knowledge. It is not only college educated men who can have the truth, for we all have the Word of God!
- C. V.16. This knowledge first belonged to the Father and came from Him.
- D. V.17. If anyone truly wishes to do God's will, he will get to know the Lord's teaching to discover if it is from God or not. Still true today.
- E. V.18. All who come of their own authority and claim to be Christ seek their own glory. Jesus Christ sought God's glory, not His Own, so was true.
- F. V.19. They claimed to honor Moses' law, but they did not keep it! Matt. 15:6. This does not mean they could not keep it. Luke 1:6. They were seeking their own glory!

IV. The people and the Lord. John 7:20-31.

- A. V.20. The people do not know the Jews' plan, accuse Him of having a demon. Why do we not have demons today? Perhaps this was Satan's work sending supernatural beings to block God's work in sending His Son? Not because we are a "Christian" nation. God graciously did away with this work. Do demons cause paranoid thoughts?
- B. V.21. He ignores the accusation. He points back to healing of lame man on Sabbath.
- C. V.22. Circumcision was given first to Abraham (Gen. 17:9-14). Moses made it law (Lev. 12:3.) Had to circumcise on the Sabbath to keep the law.
- D. V.23. If one could be "wounded" on the Sabbath to keep the law, why be full of bile that a man was healed on the Sabbath? Silly, but not unlike religion today.
- E. V.24. They were blinded by the way things appeared on the surface. Let us not be!
- F. V.25. Many of the people at the feast were not Jerusalemites. Some of the locals recognize Him. Perhaps they now regret their hasty charge of demon-possession.
- G. V.26. The people were used to the Jews having power over every situation. They wonder if they have decided that He actually is the Christ?
- H. V.27. They have a false belief that makes them reject the idea. Lightfoot says, "The Rabbis taught that He would come from Bethlehem and then be hid, but none knew where." (Lightfoot, vol. xii, pp303,4) Men today will reject Bible truth similarly!
- I. V.28. He does not deny what they say. This teaches us a lesson: if the Bible opposes commonly-held Christian doctrines, this does not discredit the Bible! He came with God's authority. He was right to send Him as He did.
- J. V.29. He knew God, for He was sent from Him. Sent = *pempo*.
- K. V.30. The Jews seek to arrest Him for claiming to have come from God. (Do we believe that He came from God?) They cannot arrest Him, for the time was not yet.
- L. V.31. Some open-minded folks looked at His miracles and believed.

V. Conclusion: Those who did not believe were blinded by the fact that He did not meet their religious expectations. Those who believed looked at the evidence of His miracles and knew He must come from God. Are we willing to look at the evidence of God's Word for the way He truly is? Or does religion blind us as well, so we cannot see the Truth when He is right in front of us?