

Encountering Jesus
21. Stop judging by appearances! (John 7v14-24)

John Percival

Introduction

- The danger of judging by appearances

A right judgment about Christ (v14-18)

- His teaching (v14-15)

- His origin (v16-17)

- His motivation (v18)

A right judgment about ourselves (v19-23)

- Jesus exposes the crowds
 - Lawbreakers (v19)
 - Hypocrites (v20-23)

- Jesus exposes us
 - Our need
 - Our rescuer
 - Our response

Conclusion

Other references: Matt. 7:28, John 1:2, 5:17, 19-20, 8:26, Matt. 15:7-9, Rom. 2:17-24, Is. 11:3-5

John 7v11-24 (NIV)

¹¹ Now at the Feast the Jews were watching for him and asking, "Where is that man?"

¹² Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man." Others replied, "No, he deceives the people." ¹³ But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the Jews.

¹⁴ Not until halfway through the Feast did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. ¹⁵ The Jews were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having studied?"

¹⁶ Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. ¹⁷ If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. ¹⁸ He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

¹⁹ Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"

²⁰ "You are demon-possessed," the crowd answered. "Who is trying to kill you?"

²¹ Jesus said to them, "I did one miracle, and you are all astonished. ²² Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a child on the Sabbath. ²³ Now if a child can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the Law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath? ²⁴ Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."