

HARD TO BELIEVE

Help From Jesus Christ for Doubters and Skeptics

5. The Point of Decision

LOOK UP AND READ: John 7:11- 43

Jesus Christ was controversial even in His own time. The seventh chapter of John is about His attendance at the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. On this occasion, He was the focus of conversations among the thousands of Jews that had gathered. They were discussing whether or not He was the Messiah (Christ—v. 26). Actually they were trying to decide just Who this miracle-worker was! In the midst of this controversy, Jesus came among them. He helped them with their reasoning, and gave them an amazing divine promise (which we have already examined in this study):

“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.” (John 7:17)

He also gave them a powerful admonition.

“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.” (John 7:24)

Somewhere, somehow, and at some time, you will have to make a decision about Jesus Christ. You cannot stay neutral. Your life and your very soul depend on your making the right decision about Him. Add up the information you have about Him, seek to gather more, weigh the arguments on either side, and then *commit!*

1. A good man or a deceiver?
“Some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people” (John 7:12b). Many today say that Jesus was a good man or a great teacher, but not God. However the objection to this assertion still holds. What about His claims and His teachings? He claimed to be the Son of God and God the Son. If He is not, then He was not a good man. The centerpiece of His teaching was about Who He is (See John 4:25-26, 6:35, 8:12, 10:9-10, 11:25-26). If He was not the Messiah, the Bread of Life, or the Light of the World, then He was not a great teacher! We cannot say that He was just a good man. We must decide if He was the Christ or an impostor; there is no third option!
2. Did He tell the truth?
What about His character? That is the issue in verses 14 through 18. He was a Man who glorified God in what He said and in what He did. In John 8, we read of a speech given

before His enemies in which He said,

“Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?” (v. 46)

Even His enemies could not prove that He had committed any sin. His companions years later testified that they had never seen Him sin (Peter—I Peter 2:21-22; John—I John 3:5). His character was flawless. Can we not trust Him to tell the truth?

3. Was God not with Him?

Jesus claimed that God was bearing witness to His claims. See this in verses 17, 28, and 29. See it also in John 5:30-38. Now look at John 7:31.

“And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?”

The divine touch upon Jesus Christ could not be denied when He was on earth, and cannot be denied by sensible people even today.

4. Can He deliver?

Listen to His words as recorded in verses 37 and 38.

“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”

Jesus offered to satisfy the inner thirst of anyone who would come and believe on Him. And He does indeed deliver on that promise. You can discover this for yourself or you can question others who have already come to Jesus for salvation.

5. Does He fit?

The Old Testament scriptures promised that the Saviour would come. Read verses 40-43. Moses called Him the “*Prophet*” in Deuteronomy 18. The prophet Micah said that He would come from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Although ignorant men did not realize that He fulfilled the prophecies (vs. 41, 42, and 52), He actually did (Luke 2:1-7). His claim to be Christ is backed by His character, His divine power, and also by the prophecies of scripture. Will you not put two and two together and decide for Him today?

