

Reactions to Jesus' Messianic Claims 3

John 7:37-53

37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

40 Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." 41 Others said, "This is the Christ."

But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? 42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" 43 So there was a division among the people because of Him. 44 Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

45 Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?"

46 The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"

47 Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? 48 Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? 49 But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed."

50 Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, 51 "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?"

52 They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee."

53 And everyone went to his own house. NKJV

I. Jesus' Claim to bestow the Holy Spirit

A. As we saw last week, Jesus promised that those who would come to Him would receive the Holy Spirit which would then also come from within their deepest being and flow to others.

1. The Holy Spirit is instrumental in our salvation.

a. Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

b. Joh 3:8 "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

2. But this is speaking of a special ministry of the Holy Spirit.

- a. "the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."
- b. In the OT the work of the Spirit was different from in the NT.
- c. I think Paul teaches in Rom 4 that people of the OT were saved just like people of the NT by the Spirit of God regenerating them.
- d. But in some cases the Spirit came upon people in a special way and then would leave them.
- e. Samson is an excellent case of this as are some other Judges.
 - (1) Othniel - Jud 3:10 The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD delivered Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed over Cushan-Rishathaim.
 - (2) Gideon - Jud 6:34 But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.
 - (3) Jephthah - Jud 11:29 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and passed through Mizpah of Gilead; and from Mizpah of Gilead he advanced toward the people of Ammon.
 - (4) Samson - Jud 13:25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.
 - (5) Samson - Jud 14:6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.
 - (6) Samson - Jud 14:19 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of their men, took their apparel, and gave the changes of clothing to those who had explained the riddle. So his anger was aroused, and he went back up to his father's house.
 - (7) Jdg 16:20 And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.
- f. Saul is another predominate case.
 - (1) 1Sa 16:14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

- g. Even David prayed that God would not take His Spirit from Him.
 - h. Ps 51:11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
 - i. But NT saints do not need to worry about that for Jesus has promised to never leave nor forsake us.
 - j. We have a similar promise that was made to David about his son Solomon and his relationship with God.
 - k. 2 Sam 7:14 "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. 15 "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.
3. What John is referring to here is what would take place on the day of Pentecost 50 days after Passover, because that is what Pentecost means, 50th.
- a. It was not that no one had the Spirit before Pentecost.
 - (1) Jn 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.
 - (2) Which no doubt they did, in some what that they had not received Him before.
 - b. This is what John the Baptist had prophesied.
 - (1) Mt 3:11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
 - (2) Mr 1:8 "I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
 - (3) Lu 3:16 John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
 - (4) Joh 1:33 "I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'
 - c. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit in a special power on the Day of Pentecost

and it filled the room where the 120 were and literally immersed them in the Holy Spirit.

B. But what was it that was happening on the day of Pentecost?

1. No doubt several things, let me point out one of them.
2. When Moses had completed the tabernacle notice what happened.
 - a. Ex. 40: 33 And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So Moses finished the work. 34 ¶ Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.
3. When Solomon finished the temple notice what happened.
 - a. I Kings 8:1 ¶ Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the City of David, which is Zion.

3 So all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. 4 Then they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that were in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites brought them up.

6 Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim.

10 And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.
4. On the Day of Pentecost
 - a. Acts 2:1 ¶ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
 - b. Just like the previous two instances God was showing His approval on

the place to worship Him.

- c. First in the tabernacle, second in the temple, thirdly in the church, that is the congregation for that is the meaning of the word for church in the NT.

II. But why would this claim to bestow the Holy Spirit be of any interest to these first century Jews.

A. Because through the OT prophets God had promised to send His Spirit upon them.

1. Eze 36:27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.
2. Isa 32:15 Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, And the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, And the fruitful field is counted as a forest.
3. Isa 59:21 "As for Me," says the Lord, "this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the Lord, "from this time and forevermore."
4. Eze 39:29 And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,' says the Lord God."
5. Joel 2:28 "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.
6. Zec 12:10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

B. So with all these promises, they were longing for this, but yet they missed it as a people.

C. They could not receive it because they were blinded and would not, could not see.

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