

Reactions to the Messianic Claims of Jesus # 4
No Man Ever Spoke Like This Man!
John 7:40-52

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." NKJV

In our final message on this chapter we find that Jesus is still causing great disagreement among the people. Some think He is this person while others think He is that person. The guard cannot arrest Him because no one ever spoke like this man. And even among the Sanhedrin the cracks are beginning to show.

That is how Jesus is, among the vast multitudes who reject Him they paint a hundred different pictures of what He is like. And even among those who love Him there a thousand different hues of colors used to describe Him.

What a dynamic character who can show up on the scene for only 3 ½ year and set the whole world reeling because of His teaching, because of His life, because of His death, and because of His resurrection.

As we go through the message today, let me give you something to think about. What have you done with Jesus? Is He a great teacher? Is He a good friend? How would you paint Him today? How would you describe Him? If your child, your grand-child were to ask you, "What is Jesus like?" what would you tell them? Would you be happy with your answer?

When this story closes, there are at least 3 groups.

Those who opposed Jesus.

Those who were confused about Jesus.

Those who believed all that He said and put their trust in Him.

Which group would you be in?

There used to be a show on TV called "To Tell the Truth" in which three individuals would come on stage and all say they were the same person. But only one was really who he said he was. The other two's job was to fool the questioners. In our passage it is similar, except that there is only one person, Jesus claiming to be the Son of God. It is the questioners who cannot figure out who Jesus is.

I. Is He that prophet.

- A. This comes from Deut 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear"
- B. It seems that most of the Jews never thought that this prophet was the Messiah.
- C. They thought that he would be a separate person from the Christ.

II. Is He the Christ?

- A. This is the Greek equivalent to the OT word Messiah.
- B. But the Messiah was to come from Bethlehem.
 - 1. Isaiah 11:1-6 (NKJV) 1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. 3 His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. 6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them.
 - 2. Psalms 132:11 (NKJV) The Lord has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: "I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body. 17 There I will make the horn of David grow; I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed.
- C. Jesus came, it seemed from Galilee.
 - 1. Matthew said that this was in fulfilment of Scripture.
 - 2. Matt 2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

III. No prophet arises from Galilee.

- A. As a matter of fact Jonah, Hosea, Nahum, possibly also Elijah, Elisha, and Amos were from Galilee. It was simply the rage of the Sanhedrin against Jesus regardless of the facts. A.T. Robertson
 - B. When a person's prejudices, their preconceived notions possess them they will more than likely keep them from the truth.
- IV. Never man spoke like this man.
- A. The officers return without Jesus.
 - B. They only have one explanation, never man spoke like this man.
- V. Nicodemus stands up for Jesus.

The final verse says everyone went to his own house. I think that is the writer's way of saying that they just could not come to a conclusion.

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