

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
  - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
  - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
    - 1. Opposition in Jerusalem (5:1-47)
    - 2. Opposition in Galilee (6:1-71)
    - 3. Settled Opposition in Jerusalem (7:1-10:39)
    - 4. Belief across the Jordan (10:40-42)
    - 5. Hardened Opposition in Jerusalem (11:1-12:36)
    - 6. The hour has come (12:20-36)
  - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

## My Doctrine is not Mine

*Gospel of John, Part XXV*

John 7:14-36

Stuart W. Bryan

### I. The Prophet (6:14; 7:40; Dt 18:15ff)

*I will raise up for them a Prophet like you [Moses] from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.*

### II. Jesus' Teaching

#### A. The Setting (14)

#### B. Controversy over Jesus' pedigree (15-24 cf. 5:16)

Jesus' teaching erupts in controversy. The Jewish Authorities question Jesus' pedigree. Jesus responds by tracing His teaching to the Father and critiquing their own professed allegiance to the Scriptures. Jesus insists that He only teaches what the Father has revealed to Him and that if they had a true fear of God, then they would recognize that what Jesus is teaching is true (cf. Ps 111:10). But they are too deep in their own hypocrisy. While they claim to be devoted to Moses, their claim is a sham and a lie. How does Jesus know this? Because, contrary to the law of God, they are seeking to murder Him.

In addition, their interpretation of the Scriptures is askew (21-24). Jesus does not object to their evaluation of his behavior – but because their teaching on the Sabbath is inconsistent, their judgment is unsound. After all, if it is permissible to circumcise on the Sabbath (to symbolize spiritual healing, which the Jews grant), then how can it be wrong to grant physical healing on the day? *The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.* The Sabbath was crafted as an instrument to bless God's people not a club to beat them.

#### C. Controversy over Jesus' origin (25-31)

#### D. Jesus' Misunderstood Warning (32-36 cf. Prov 1:24ff)

*"Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, because you disdained all my counsel and would have none of my rebuke, I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes... they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me" (Prov. 1:24-26, 28).*

### III. Application

#### A. God's Word as God's Voice

*I will raise up for them a Prophet like you [Moses] from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.*

Jesus was sent from the Father to speak the things of the Father. Everything that Jesus teaches us comes directly from God. What this means, therefore, is that Jesus' words are the very words of God. To reject Jesus is to reject God.

Hence, when we open the Scriptures and declare them, we are not expressing our own opinions. We are declaring the Word and will of God Almighty. The Word of God is God's sword, God's weapon. God has given us His Word in order that we might confound unbelief.

#### B. God's Word versus Ideologies

Merely *saying* that we are loyal to the Scriptures does not *mean* that we are loyal to the Scriptures. The Jewish Authorities were using their piety as a cloak for wickedness. Here's the principle: We know that we are being driven by an ideology and not the fear of God when we justify wickedness "for the sake of the cause." *When we justify wickedness, then we are using the Word of God to justify our ideology rather than submitting our ideology to the Word of God.*

#### C. God's Word and Faith

We must be constantly humble in reference to the Scriptures. We must receive the Word of God in faith. *If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.* As we go through our lives we must live in the fear of God, asking God to expose erroneous thinking and erroneous practice in our lives.

### IV. Conclusion

*He who makes God's glory his object will never go wrong, and he who decides and tests by this touchstone what is put forward in the name of God will never be deceived by a semblance of right... none can discharge the office of teacher in the Church faithfully, save he who is devoid of ambition and undertakes as his one activity and with all his might the promotion of the glory of God. (Calvin, 1.187)*