

# SOUL FOOD

MARCH 17, 2017

## **JOHN 7:14-24     JUDGE WITH RIGHT JUDGMENT**

It is quite amazing to consider all of the various opinions concerning the person of Jesus. By the religious establishment he was even accused of being a sinner and a blasphemer. In this passage he was even accused of having a demon. His own brothers did not believe in him. Even today Jesus is viewed as a great leader, prophet, and teacher, but not as the Son of God. As in all instances, and as it should be with all people, we must judge with right judgment. This is especially true when it comes to Jesus.

Many were amazed at the authority with which Jesus taught. The religious establishment especially thought that this was amazing since Jesus was not a man of letters; he had not been taught and trained in the leading Rabbinical learning centers. Why was his teaching empowered with such authority? Jesus pointed out that his teaching did not belong to him. His teaching came from God. He who is the truth taught out of the very authority of Yahweh, the One with whom He was co-equal. Neither his teaching nor his authority came from man.

Why do so many reject Jesus' teaching and authority? According to Jesus there are many who do not desire to do the Father's will. However, for those whose will is to do the Father's will, they will be able to discern that Jesus' teaching comes from God and that Jesus does not simply speak on his own authority. For, anyone who speaks on his own authority does not seek God's glory; he seeks his own. Also, such a motivation will not result in power and the blessing of God's authority and fruit. We must use right judgment when it comes to Jesus.

Lastly, Jesus defends and supports his healing of a man on the Sabbath by appealing to Moses. In John 5 Jesus reminded some religious authorities that Moses wrote about him, so that if they truly believed Moses they would believe Jesus and his teaching. Here in John 7, Jesus speaks of how his work of healing on the Sabbath was an act of obedience to the law of God, which is summarized by one word found in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Moses gave the people circumcision and they obey even by doing so on the Sabbath. Why should not Jesus then be free to make a man's whole body well on the Sabbath? He was not a breaker of God's Law. He upheld it and fulfilled it. We must always use right judgment when it comes to Jesus.