

Convinced
outwardly, or
convicted
secretly?

John 7:1-24

- 1 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him.**
- 2 Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.**
- 3 His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing.**
- 4 For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world."**
- 5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.**
- 6 Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.**
- 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.**
- 8 You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come."**
- 9 When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.**
- 10 But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.**
- 11 Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, "Where is He?"**
- 12 And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, "He is good"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people."**

13 However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.

14 Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught.

15 And the Jews marveled, saying, “How does this Man know letters, having never studied?”

16 Jesus answered them and said, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.

17 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.

18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.

19 Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?”

20 The people answered and said, “You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?”

21 Jesus answered and said to them, “I did one work, and you all marvel.

22 Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath.

23 If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath?

24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

Man's way

- Jesus' brothers tell Jesus that
- Jesus must show Himself openly to the world
- So they can see the works that He is doing
- If Jesus wants people to believe who He says He is, then He must not be in secret anymore.
- Jesus' brothers did not believe in Jesus
- They saw the works that He did
- They encouraged Jesus to tell the world openly who He was
- They did not apparently oppose or contradict Jesus
- Yet they did not believe in Jesus

Our concept

- Many times, we see Jesus' works
- We may hear testimonies of how Jesus worked in other people's lives
- We may even be impressed
- Yet we may not believe in Jesus for ourselves
- We always expect something more to happen in our lives so we can believe
- If Jesus is real, let Him show Himself openly to the world – something dramatic

God's way

- In secret
- Seeking to be known
- Yet not in an outward way
- There is nothing that Jesus wants more than for us to know Him
- Yet the way He reveals Himself to us is in secret
- In His own time
- Jesus went to the feast in secret, as it were, in order to reveal Himself, but not in the way we want

How?

- Not through miracles or dramatic events, but by testifying that our works are evil
- **The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil (verse 7)**
- God reveals Himself to us by exposing our real condition
- By causing me to realize that I am evil
- My works are evil
- I look for some grand miracle so I can believe
- God will come to me in secret and show me that I am a sinner

God's way will cause a reaction

- **And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, “He is good”; others said, “No, on the contrary, He deceives the people” (verse 12)**
- **According to our way, we would like God to once for all make Himself so clear to the whole world that no one would have any doubt anymore, and would fall down and believe right away**

- God's way is different
- God's way contradicts our way, our person, our nature and our constitution
- God's way offends us because it points out what is wrong with us
- God's way exposes our darkness
- God's way exposes our desire to even want to kill Jesus
- **Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?" (verse 19)**

Quotation from Blaise Pascal

- “I prefer to believe those writers who get their throats cut for what they write.”
- Pascal, French philosopher and mathematician, developed the modern theory of probability, 1623-1662
- We would like to believe in Jesus if Jesus would show Himself to everyone in the world beyond a shadow of doubt
- We like to be convinced
- We like to ask the question: Where is Jesus?
- Let Him show Himself to all of us. Then I will believe:
Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, “Where is He?” (verse 11)

Quotation from John Wesley (1703-1791)

- “This book had to be written by one of three people: good men, bad men or God. It couldn’t have been written by good men because they said it was inspired by the revelation of God. Good men don’t lie and deceive. It couldn’t have been written by bad men because bad men would not write something that would condemn themselves. It leaves only one conclusion. It was given by divine inspiration of God.”

- God's way is, on the one hand, very obvious.
- He has given the world His word, the Bible
- All of God's heart and will is contained in the Bible, staring us in the face, even screaming at us if we can listen
- Yet, on the other hand, it is so hidden.
- We don't listen, we don't see, we still doubt and question
- Why?

Jesus does not want to convince us outwardly

- To believe into Jesus is not to agree mentally with Jesus and what He did historically
- To believe into Jesus is not just to be convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus was a great person and did great works
- To believe into Jesus is not just to be impressed with Jesus' knowledge and person:
And the Jews marveled, saying, “How does this Man know letters, having never studied?” (verse 15)
- **All these things are helpful and cause us to attract us to Jesus**
- **A convinced person may be convinced mentally, but never changed inwardly, because he still lives by his human life**

Jesus wants to convict us « secretly »

- It is not what Jesus can do for me outwardly, according to my way or my time
- It is not that Jesus can give me a lot of money, or good grades, or a good job
- Rather, when Jesus shines His light in me to show me who I am, a sinner, I realize that I need Him as my Savior
- To forgive me and cleanse me from my sins, my unrighteousness, my rebellion against God
- When I realize my need for a Savior, I will no longer ask, « Where is Jesus, » but rather say, « Lord Jesus, I need You to save me. You died for me. Forgive me and cleanse me. I believe into You. »
- A convicted person is changed from within because he receives a new life, the divine life, and begins to live by this life