

Men's Breakfast - Better Late Than Never?

1. From your school days, what rule seemed pointless or silly? Did you break it?
2. When have you gotten so caught up with rules and regulations that you missed entirely the joy of living?
3. When have you judged someone or something on appearance alone only to find out later that you were wrong?

John 7:14-24

[14] Not until halfway through the Feast did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. [15] The Jews were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having studied?"

[16] Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. [17] If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. [18] He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. [19] Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"

[20] "You are demon-possessed," the crowd answered. "Who is trying to kill you?"

[21] Jesus said to them, "I did one miracle, and you are all astonished. [22] Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a child on the Sabbath. [23] Now if a child can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath? [24] Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."

DISCUSSION: Last week Jesus family told him or were teasing him that if he wanted to be a big time celebrity he needed to go do some miracles for the crowds at the Feast. Jesus said the time was not right. Also the city where the gathering is, is where he healed the lame man on the Sabbath and also claimed to be equal with God. Although that was over a year ago the Jews, likely the religious leaders, wanted to kill him

1. What did Jesus do halfway through the Feast? (7:14)
2. What are the Jews likely referring to in verse 15?
3. Given the risk, why did Jesus go to the Passover (v. 16)?
4. How did the people react to Jesus' teaching? Why?

5. How would you respond if you were in the crowd?

6. What point are the leaders missing?

7. From where did Jesus' teaching come? (7:16)

8. How did Jesus say someone could discover whether or not His teaching came from God? (7:17)

9. What quality did Jesus say a person of truth possesses? (7:18)

10. What do Jesus' responses reveal about his authority? What questions did Jesus ask the Jews? (7:19)

Note: because this is one of those festivals where people come in from out of town, many of the people in the crowd are unaware of the altercation a year ago, so

would have no reason to think anyone would want to kill Jesus.

11. What did the crowd accuse Jesus of being? (7:20)

12. Why did Jesus say the Jews were astonished? (7:21)

13. Why did Jesus comment on circumcision? (7:22-23) (Note: the law stated that the male child had to be circumcised eight days after a baby's birth and if it fell on the Sabbath they still did it.)

14. What evidence did Jesus use to show that the Jews also believed in doing good on the Sabbath? (7:22-23)

15. How did Jesus compare His healing with circumcision? (7:23)

16. What did Jesus instruct His audience to do? (7:24)

John 6:38 (NLT) For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do what I want.

John 8:42 (NIV) Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.

John 17:8 (NIV) For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

Romans 12:2 (NIV) Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve

what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

John 14:13 (NIV) and I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 18:37 (NIV) "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

John 8:45-46 (NIV) 45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! 46 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV) But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

REFLECTION:

1. How do people today respond to the teaching of Jesus?
2. What gives you the confidence to believe that what Jesus taught is true?
3. How can we become men and women of truth?
4. What rules do we force on others while overlooking our own violations?
5. What are the important issues in today's society about which the Church should be concerned?
6. Why do we tend to judge things and people based solely on appearances?
7. How can you put aside a prejudice in order to get to know a person you have misjudged?
8. How does Jesus reveal himself to you today? Are you ever upset by what he says? Why?

9. When have you seen religious principles put ahead of love?

