

Men's Breakfast - Should Know But Don'T

When has someone jumped to a wrong conclusion about you? How did you feel?
Why do people join groups, clubs, and associations?
To what groups do you belong? Which is your favorite?

John 7:44-52 (NIV)

Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

[45] Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?"

[46] "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards declared.

[47] "You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted. [48] "Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? [49] No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law--there is a curse on them."

[50] Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, [51] "Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?"

[52] They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee."

DISCUSSION: The guards or temple police were not Roman soldiers they worked for the temple the Pharisees. They likely heard lots of teaching fulfilling their jobs.

1. Is it implied that the temple police were told to arrest Jesus if he showed up at the temple?

2. Why do the guards keep hands off? What tensions do they feel?

3. What explanation did the temple guards give for not bringing Jesus to the chief priests and Pharisees? (7:45-46)

4. How can we infer that the temple guard recognized Jesus' authority? (7:46)

5. We sometimes read or interpret that people followed Jesus because of his miraculous signs and works - what other reason is implied here (and the first three passages on the back)?

6. Of what did the Pharisees accuse the temple guards? (7:47)

(Our first encounter with Nicodemus is on the back - John 3)

7. What justification do the Pharisees offer in refuting the guards? Nicodemus (w. 48,50)?

8. Why would Nicodemus risk defending Jesus? (was he becoming a believer?)

9. What groups of people had not believed in Jesus? (7:48)

10. Why did the Pharisees claim there was a curse on the mob of people who believed in Jesus? (7:49) (Note: the Pharisees saw themselves as the intellectual elite and the masses or people as stupid - any parallels today?)

11. To what group did Nicodemus belong? (7:50)

12. What question did Nicodemus ask? (7:51) (Read Deut on Back)

13. What question was Nicodemus asked? (7:52)

14. What claim did the Pharisees make about Galilee? (7:52) (Note: they did not even know their own history)

Matthew 7:28-29 (NIV) 28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were **amazed at his teaching**, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Matthew 22:41-46 (NIV) 41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" "The son of David," they replied. 43 He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says, 44 "'The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.'" 45 If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" 46 No one could say a word in reply, and **from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions**.

John 7:15 (NIV) The Jews were amazed and asked, **"How did this man get such learning without having studied?"**

Deuteronomy 1:16-17 (NIV) 16 And I charged your judges at that time: Hear the disputes between your brothers and judge fairly, whether the case is between brother Israelites or between one of them and an alien. 17 Do not show partiality in judging; **hear both small and great alike**. Do not be afraid of any man, for judgment belongs to God. Bring me any case too hard for you, and I will hear it.

Isaiah 9:1 (NIV) 1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor **Galilee** of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan--

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government

will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

FROM GALILEE:

2 Kings 14:25 (NIV) 25 He was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, in accordance with the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant **Jonah** son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hopher.

1 Kings 17:1 (NIV) 1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word

Actually Hosea, Nahum, Elisha and Amos were also from the Galilee or the surrounding area.

John 3:1-21 (NIV)

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." 3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." 4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" 5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows wherever it

pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." 9 "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. 10 "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? 11 I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. 12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven-- the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."



REFLECTION:

1. When have you been ridiculed because of your faith? What did you do?
2. To what groups in your church do you belong?
3. How might your membership in certain groups influence your opinions or beliefs?
4. What religious groups have power and authority in today's society?

5. How might today's religious leaders react to Jesus if He came back today?

6. Why do we tend to judge others before we actually get to know them?

7. How do we sometimes abuse spiritual authority?

8. What groups that further the cause of Christ can you support? How?

9. How can you glorify God in the places of authority you hold?