

John 7:7 – 53

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is committed to teaching the entire Word of God in the sound doctrine of the apostles so we may grow in the knowledge and grace of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. That, by de facto, requires a proper, correct and complete consideration of all things Scriptural. I have made that teaching available to the entire world in hopes that someone will turn to and trust the Lord Jesus Christ in faith - and in hopes that some backsliding individual might regain a fresh and vibrant relationship with God. Many Christians get very far away from God – and God accepts them back to Him if they are sincere and repentant – and He does all of this in His Word. Sometimes, at exactly the right time, the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God like a breath of fresh air breathed into a dead and decaying soul.

The stereotypical television evangelist today is a narcissist employing theatrics, lights, costumes and a huge audience – whether the crowd is real or has been paid or not is another matter – but they usually envisage themselves as some kind of great person of God. They generally act as if they are the only ones with any knowledge of God at all. I've been accused of that many times but, friends - that just doesn't happen to be my problem. No, our safari aims to bring the Bible down to earth with an explanation that is easy to understand and clear to the thinking of the average person. This isn't a theory, and I don't draw charts and diagrams, usually. My type of teaching is only accomplished through much prayer and a sincere study of the Word of God. The safari follows the chariot of Christ down a narrow path through the Bible.

Friends, I am intentionally over-stressing the fact that I do not approach the Bible from the psychological angle. I do not teach self-esteem and self help, because that's not what the Bible teaches. Most people mistakenly think the Lord helps those who help themselves. No, friend, the Lord helps those who have realized they cannot help themselves! What we need to do is repent and return to God today! Our repentance is the only hope the church has of revival. In Revelation, all repentance is given to the seven

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churches; never is that command given to a sinner. Well, the church is trying to pass it off to the sinner today and THAT IS PRECISELY where they go wrong! Of course, a sinner that turns to Christ will have to repent. I happen to be speaking to the churches today, friends – because there’s a whole lot more said about what amounts to nothing in the world but psychology than there is about sinners repenting. You better get your thinking straight about the Word of God or very bad things are in your immediate future, my beloved safari readers. I put all of this forward in defense of the way I plan to continue to teach the Word of God – and, in particular, the next several reports; that is, properly, correctly and completely.

We are with Jesus as He is just about to go up to Jerusalem to the feast of tabernacles in this leg of our safari. In our last report we saw His brethren urging Him to go up with them, but He would not. There was nothing to hinder any of them from going, but Jesus isn’t going because Jesus is working according to a schedule. That schedule is the will of the Father; and Jesus won’t go up until the correct time. We considered worldly wisdom in our previous report that was urging Him to go; but His time had not yet come....

7 The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

~ The world is hostile towards the light in the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ turned on the light and revealed that which is wrong. The light reveals sin in all of its ugliness. Christ condemns sin and that’s the reason the world hates Him today. He condemns sin just by His very presence. That hostility is what He will ultimately put down; He went to the cross because of His redeeming love of the world. That love is the only thing that can break the hardened hearts of hostile man. This is what we see in the life of Saul of Tarsus; Saul was ‘breathing out threatenings’ and he hated the Lord Jesus when Saul came to know Him as his Savior. That’s when Paul realized he was heartbroken. Paul realized that Jesus loved him and gave His life for him....

8 Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come.

9 When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee.

10 But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.

~ This is another entrance into Jerusalem that I believe happened through the sheep gate where the pool of Bethesda is located. Only at the so-called Triumphal Entry did Jesus enter by the East Gate. I feel that all the other times He went to Jerusalem He entered in at the sheep gate. Well, there is a division among the people here and they are divided in their discussions concerning Him. All of this is being done secretly because anyone supporting Jesus would have likely been arrested by the Jews....

11 Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he?

12 And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.

13 Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.

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

~ That's quite a sudden appearance Jesus makes at the temple to teach during the feast of tabernacles; and this sets forth the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to establish His Kingdom – specifically, the events and stages that lead up to it. Friends, our so-called Spiritual Safari is in the thickest jungle of spirituality right here. At the consummation of all things spoken of by the prophets He will appear suddenly. The Lord we seek shall suddenly – very suddenly – startlingly suddenly – establish His Kingdom....

15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?

~ The religious rulers were only interested in His lack of formal training in their rabbinical schools. They ridiculed as they marveled how He could speak as eloquently as He did. Remember, the enemies report will be, "... never a man spake as this man spake." Well, to reject the message of the Lord Jesus is to reject God's message altogether. It simply cannot be otherwise. Jesus insists repeatedly that to reject Him is to reject God. We have learned most definitively on safari that Jesus made Himself equal with God - more than once. You may choose not to believe that, but do not say the Bible doesn't teach the proclamation by Jesus of His deity as the Messiah and Christ because, my friend, you just happen to be woefully wrong making that statement....

16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

~ This means a choice and a purpose; it means to taste of the Lord and see if He is good! We all know the proof in the pudding is evident in the eating of it. God applies a litmus test here revealing there must be a love for the Word of God when we come to it. The knowledge of man must first be understood to be loved; the Word of God must be first loved to be understood. We have all of these steps here: knowledge, love and obedience. That's the test because this is what God asks of us. It's easy to sit on the sidelines of Christianity and watch everyone else try to win the game. It's easy to yell out how it's to be done when you aren't doing anything to help. Most people speak their minds without really knowing what they are doing or saying. The wonder of the Word of God, friends, is: if you're honestly willing – God will make this all real to you. The question is: do men want to hear God? God wants to speak to man – and God wants to speak to YOU! The natural man, however, receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him. Many people read the Bible and get absolutely nothing out of it, of course. That's exactly the way God said things will be....

18 He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?

~ Here is a people living in an ideal society under ideal conditions to live a Godly life and Jesus says, categorically, that NONE are keeping the Mosaic Law. So, if you think you are keeping the Mosaic Law, then you are calling the Lord Jesus Christ a liar. Let's be careful about that. The hypocrisy of those who are legalistic is laughable – except it always comes to murder! These pious people who say the Sermon on the Mount is their religion, or that they live by the Ten Commandments – may I say – you're hypocrites of the worst kind – and dangerous. You are dangerous because you poison others who see your conflicted, banal, purposeless, meaningless and useless religion that you call Christianity, and they start to perceive God that way. Who are you trying to kid besides yourself? The law is nothing but a mirror that reveals we're incapable of keeping it. The law is important because it let the children of Israel know, in no uncertain terms, that they were sinners in need of salvation. The law is merely the schoolmaster that brings the child to Christ....

20 The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?

21 Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work at the pool of Bethesda, and ye all marvel.

22 Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers) and ye on the Sabbath day circumcise a man.

23 If a man on the Sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the Sabbath day?

24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

~ The difficulty with most of us today is that we make superficial judgments of others. Another extreme are the crowd that say they do not judge at all; but, of course, they are always the ones to judge the heart of another man while saying they aren't judging. Naturally, these are also the hypocrites of verse nineteen. The Lord Jesus tells us not to cast our pearls before swine. Well, we are going to have to make a judgment call to know who the pigs and dogs are! See, friends, it's very important that we know the Bible properly, correctly and completely in order to avoid destroying the faith of others – and our own – and to avoid looking utterly foolish putting up a Christian front while, deep down inside, the Bible is utterly useless in our lives. We do well to realize that we make so many wrong judgments because we simply do not have all the facts....

25 Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill?

26 But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?

27 Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is.

28 Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.

29 But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.

30 Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.

~ The Pharisees and other religious groups were anxious to arrest Jesus and murder Him at this moment. They absolutely hated and despised Him after this event. Many people believed on Jesus at this time, to be sure;

many trusted Christ and turned to Him – and, of course, many were healed. Well, Jesus says they will take Him, but not until the proper time – God’s time. Jesus also says here that after the resurrection and ascension no one will be able to lay hands on Him again. After His death on the cross, He was not touched except by loving hands, and He was not seen but by loving eyes....

31 And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh; will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?

32 The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him.

33 Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me.

34 Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.

35 Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles?

36 What manner of saying is this that he said; Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come?

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

~ We can only stand on the fringe as we consider all the water being poured out at a feast of tabernacles. I feel that Jesus was likely standing ankle deep in water when He said this. They would have been bringing it up from the pool of Salome and pouring it out by the barrel full! The feast of tabernacles celebrated their trek across the wilderness and the times when the Lord gave them water from the rock. The manna wasn’t really the true bread from Heaven and the physical water in the wilderness was not the

true and living water from Heaven, either. Paul says Christ is the rock and that Christ gives the real water. Here, the Lord says He is giving us the real thing!

We are examining free will with a vengeance! If ANY man – that means YOU – will come, you may! Today, we have a gift that any man or woman who is willing to receive can reach out and take hold of. The election side of this is, “... if any man thirst.” The Lord makes us thirsty for the water of the Word of God. When people are thirsty, they drink; a thirsty man never says, “... no thanks” to an ice-cold glass of water! If you are thirsty and are tired of drinking from the mud-holes of this world that never satisfy you, then you can come to the spring-fed rivers of life today....

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)

~ It is critical to realize that the Holy Spirit did not come and indwell believers until the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit could not indwell man until Christ was glorified in Heaven. When the Holy Spirit arrived at Pentecost, it meant that the Lord Jesus Christ was back on the Throne at the right hand of God the Father. Some people will believe and drink – and those people will be satisfied. On the other hand, there are those who refuse to believe, and widespread unbelief is a tragic story today. Well, Jesus' destination on this earth was a miserable little stable in a Podunk little town called Bethlehem. The pretty little pictures we see on Christmas cards are nothing but a joke of ignorance. Jesus gave the people an invitation to come and drink - and they raised objections anyway; simply for the sake of being uncooperative. It wasn't even in their own best interest to reject Christ. They had witnessed Him feed the multitudes and heal the worst cases. That poor spirit of unbelief, tragically, is the norm in our contemporary churches....

40 Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.

41 Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee?

42 Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?

43 So there was a division among the people because of him.

44 And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.

45 Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?

46 The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.

47 Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived?

48 Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?

49 But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed.

50 Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,)

51 Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?

52 They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.

53 And every man went unto his own house.

~ So, we see the division over Christ at the time in which we are studying; and it's the same division that divides men today. Never a man spoke as this man. Jesus was a great Teacher, teaching of death and resurrection. Nicodemus makes another last-minute final appearance. Nikki belongs to the Pharisees, but now he is defending Jesus; but when the Pharisees asked Nikki if he is from Galilee also - that was an insulting joke. They knew the Scriptures and they knew Jesus hadn't come out of Galilee and that He, actually, hadn't come out of Bethlehem. The Lord Jesus Christ came out of glory. Unto us a child was born, but unto us a Son was given. Why not ask a friend to read along with you in the next report from our Spiritual Safari? – I promise a trip in jungle of life you will NEVER – EVER forget....

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