



John 7:14-24

3/17/19 AM

TEACHING IN THE TEMPLE

Introduction:

C.S. Lewis' trilemma (*Mere Christianity*, pp. 54-56)

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. ... Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God."

I. JESUS' APPEARANCE IN THE TEMPLE (7:14)

A. The Timing (vs. 14a)

"when it was now the midst of the feast"

B. The Temple (vs. 14b)

"Jesus went up into the temple"

C. The Teaching (vs. 14c)

"and began to teach"

II. JESUS' APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE (7:15-19)

A. Their Astonishment (vs. 15)

"the Jews then were astonished"

"How has this man become learned, having never been educated?"

B. His Answer (vs. 16-18)

"My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me."

"If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself."

"He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory"

“He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true”

“and there is no unrighteousness in Him”

C. His Accusation (vs. 19)

“Did not Moses give you the Law, and yet none of you carries out the Law?”

“Why do you seek to kill Me?”

III. JESUS’ APPRAISAL OF THEIR NEED (7:20-24)

A. Their Denial (vs. 20)

“the crowd answered, ‘You have a demon!’”

“Who seeks to kill You?”

B. His Defense (vs. 21-23)

“I did one deed, and you all marvel.”

“For this reason Moses has given you circumcision (not because it is from Moses, but from the fathers)...”

“...and on the Sabbath you circumcise a man.”

“If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken...”

“...are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on the Sabbath?”

C. His Demand (vs. 24)

“do not judge according to appearance”

“but judge with righteous judgment”

Conclusion:

- 1) People reject Jesus because...
- 2) Jesus is true and righteous because...
- 3) Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic, or He is Lord.

Food for Thought:

- 1) How much does a person need to know about Jesus in order to be born again?
- 2) How can legalism keep someone from genuine faith in Christ
- 3) Why is willingness to submit to the lordship of Christ an essential element of saving faith?
- 4) What can we learn from Jesus’ example here about how to witness to skeptics?