

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #148

Stage VI. Jesus' Later Judean Ministry

B. Jesus' Ministry at the Feast of Tabernacles

1. Jesus' First Teaching at Tabernacles: "Rivers of Living Water"

v: The Crowd Divides Because of Jesus

John 7.40-52

40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet."

41 Others said, "He is the Messiah."

Still others asked, "How can the Messiah come from Galilee? 42 Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?"

43 Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.

44 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 the Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?"

46 "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards replied.

47 "You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted.

48 "Have 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 a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been 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."

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	The Temple Courts in Jerusalem
Timeline	September (Month 31)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	B. Jesus' Ministry at the Feast of Tabernacles
	I. Jesus' First Teaching at Tabernacles: "Rivers of Living Water"
Title	v. The Crowd Divides Because of Jesus

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COMMENT:

Jesus' teaching session on the "Great Day" of the Feast ended with seven different responses to him among the people and leadership. Here they are:

1. Those who thought that Jesus was a prophet. (7.40)
2. Those who thought that Jesus was the Messiah. (7.41)
3. Those that doubted that Jesus was the Messiah since they did not know that he was born in Bethlehem. (7.41)
4. Those that wanted to arrest Jesus and interrogate him. (7.44)
5. Those who were deeply impressed by Jesus and his message. (7.46)
6. Those among the Pharisees who had decided that he was a blasphemer and false Messiah. (7.47-49)
7. Those among the Pharisees, like Nicodemus, who saw nothing but good in Jesus. (7.50-51)

Jesus forces every person who hears of him to respond to his claims. He is obviously not just a typical person. Then, who is he? All the evidence points in the same direction—he is God!

The statement of the guards that could not bring themselves to arrest Jesus (the fifth response) in 7.46 was a particularly important phrase in the gospel of John. **"No one ever spoke the way this man does."**

John's eternal title for Jesus was **"the Word."** John started his gospel with the prologue: **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."** After using this Title, John never specifically defined what he meant by it. So, the entire gospel is an explanation of Jesus as "the Word" of God. The statement by the arresting officers gives us a critical insight into Jesus as "the Word."

No one in history has ever spoken like Jesus. The content of what he communicated through his entire life is like nothing else ever said or done. Jesus is utterly unique as a Communicator. This is true in almost limitless ways.

Jesus spoke the entire universe into being. He spoke and "miracles" instantly happened. He spoke of heaven and the invisible reality of the kingdom of God with the authority and finality of the only Being to ever come down out of heaven as God, and declare from his own experience what only God knows. Jesus spoke the truth and nothing but the truth. He lived the truth and nothing but the truth in seamless consistency with he said. Jesus spoke commands and promises unlike anything ever uttered by men on earth. He spoke about love and life and eternity and how to have a relationship with his Father that was just like his own. All this is just a start!

Who is Jesus? He is the One who spoke like no one else has ever done, or ever will. He is God speaking perfectly through human flesh.

APPLICATION:

In light of the glory and significance of what Jesus said, why pay attention to another voice or word?

Whose voice or message other than Jesus needs to decrease in your life so that you can listen to him more attentively?