

Jesus Teaches at the Feast of Tabernacles

Part 1 - John 7:11-36

Jesus had been gone from Jerusalem for about eighteen months but returned for the popular Feast of Tabernacles and taught in the Temple. In his Gospel, John the Apostle highlights both Jesus' teachings and the various reactions from the crowds. We find three distinct groups of people being referred to in this passage. Let's begin with a good understanding who they are.

The people who heard Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles:

- “Jews” – John uses this term to refer to the Jewish leadership, both religious and political. They will include Pharisees, Sadducees, often referred to as chief priests, and Elders, the tribal leaders. These were opponents in doctrine and rivals, except when it came to Jesus. We will always find them united in hatred toward Jesus! v. 11, 13, 15, 26, 32, 35
- “People” – Generally, this is a term concerning the pilgrims who came to Jerusalem for the feast. Many would have been from Galilee and had firsthand knowledge of Jesus and His ministry. v. 12, 20, 31, 32
- “Some of them of Jerusalem” – These were the locals of Jerusalem. They would have a more limited knowledge of Jesus, but certainly more insight into the Religious Leaders' hatred and plans to kill Him. Some did believe Jesus was the Christ. v. 25, 30, 31, 32

I. Background - The people's various opinions concerning Jesus' person. Note that these events described in these three verses occurred before Jesus arrived in Jerusalem for the feast.

“Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he? ¹²And there was much murmuring (Lit undercurrent of discussion, quiet arguing, complaining about, secret muttering, whispered disagreements, quiet disputing) among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people. ¹³Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.”

John 7:11-13

“Where is he” – The Religious Leaders were expecting Jesus and were openly looking for Him! They verbalized the question, “Where is he?” The Greek is much more **cynical and scornful**, “Where is that man?” Bible teachers believe that He had not attended feasts in Jerusalem for some time. When setting a timeline of Jesus' life, nothing is said of other feasts in Jerusalem, and He certainly stirred the religious establishment when He came. We are seeing here the major reactions from both the leadership and the common people.

Two Opinions: Two contrasting opinions! After three years of active ministry, most people have one of these two thoughts concerning Jesus:

- “He is a good man” – The great number of **miracles and good works** were widely known throughout all of Palestine! Many saw Him as a good man with **thoughtful words and amazing preaching**. Many hoped He would rise up against the Romans, but much time had passed, and Jesus had shown no

indication that He was setting up an army or rallying a mighty following. But generally, He was a good man. Of course, this was true, but it falls very short! Because actually, He was the Son of God!!

- “he deceiveth the people” – The other thought was that Jesus was a fraud and deceiver! This was in relation to the contemporary teachings of their day. The rabbis and Jesus were so different, in content and authority! Many thought Jesus was leading people away from their traditions and teachings.

“no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.” – Fear stifled open debate and positive reports on the power and truth of Jesus. The fear of retaliation from the Jewish religious and political powers held captive those who had come to see and believe that Jesus seemed to be the Christ! All discussions were done privately, around campfires, in small family and friend groups, but not in big open forums like the temple or city squares. We often read of the fear the Jewish people had of losing their access to the temple, synagogues, and being shunned by their Jewish brothers. It was too dangerous to be found in favor of Jesus! This was well known by this time of Jesus’ ministry. John 9:22; 12:42; 19:38; 20:19 Jesus said this – John 16:1-3

It was very apparent that the Religious Leadership was not for Jesus, yet the people were still undecided.

II. First Teachings and Debates – “Midst of the feast”

“Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. ¹⁵And the Jews marveled, saying, How knoweth this man letters (Lit. – versed in Scripture and theology, master of the law, insight into the Law and writings of prophets), having never learned? ¹⁶Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine (Lit. teaching) is not mine, but his that sent me. ¹⁷If any man will do his will (BGW – other translations – desires to do His will/wants/willing/ chooses/really determines), he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. ¹⁸He 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. ¹⁹Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?” John 7:14-19

A. Interaction with “Jews” –

“about the midst of the feast” – Sometime in the middle of the eight-day feast week, Jesus appears! The Religious Leaders had been expecting and looking for Him, and Jesus came right into the temple and began to teach. There was no big fanfare; there was no throwing of miracles, parades, or announcements. However, Jesus did not seek privacy but was open and accessible to the people. Remember, He was following the Father’s will!

The Jew’s Question:

“How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?” – The fact that Jesus was not one of them really bothered the Pharisees and other Religious Leaders of the day. He didn’t fall into their system, hadn’t gone to their approved seminaries, didn’t attend their meetings, or belong to their associations! He spoke with authority, but didn’t quoting the great Rabbis of the past or present. He often openly rejected dearly held traditions and encouraged the people to do the same. And one of the most maddening things was the knowledge and wisdom Jesus of Nazareth possessed. He would regularly shut down debates with the most studied scholars by posing

statements and questions that seemed impossible to answer. He often made them look like fools before the people, revealing their empty pomp as nothing. The burning question was, “How knoweth this man...?”

Jesus’ Answer: This is a two-fold answer.

1. Jesus’ Origin and Authority - “My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.” v. 16 – Jesus plainly declared that His teaching/doctrine was from God, the One who sent Him. It was not something He learned from a man but came directly from the Father Himself! God the Father had sent Jesus with a message and a task; these two combined were the will of God for His Son! John 8:28, 40, 46-47; 12:49-50; 14:10, 24. Jesus taught Paul! Gal. 1:11-12 And the Holy Spirit wonderfully teaches us! John 16:13-14; 1 John 2:20-21; 27

2. Jesus Teaches about How to Identify Truth – Jesus gives how God’s truth is revealed:

- Personal commitment to truth – v. 17 **The listener must be committed to know and obey truth, regardless of how painful or counter-cultural it is to their soul!** When reading J Vernon McGee’s Through the Bible Commentary, I found this statement: “That is the wonder of the Word of God. Friend, if you are willing, God will make it real to you. The Holy Spirit will confirm it to you.” p. 411 Based on a sincere heart for truth and obedience, God will give discernment and knowledge. Hard, predetermined hearts are like the hard soil of Jesus’ soil and seed parable; it will not grow the precious seed of the Word of God. Only a good, honest heart, as expressed in Luke 8:15, brings forth fruit! “But he that doeth truth cometh to the light,…” John 3:21; 8:46-47; 14:21 This is a God principle that is seen in the Old Testament as well! Ps. 25:9; Dan. 12:10 and the Epistles – 1 Cor. 2:14
- Observe who the teacher highlights – v. 18 **The listener can observe who the teacher will hold up, highlight, or, as our KJV says, “seek” the glory of!** In reality, many teachers highlight themselves, their denomination, their associations, and their mentors, often focusing on people and things rather than God. Jesus said, “but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.” Of course, He is speaking of Himself. Jesus held up the Father, highlighted the Father, and always sought the glory of the Father. He came to do the Father’s will and speak the words of His Father! John 8:49-50

“Why go ye about to kill me? v. 19 – Jesus is directly associating the Law of Moses, namely “Thou shalt not kill,” with the Religious Leader’s premeditated plans to kill Him! Because they were blind to the truth that Jesus had the Words of God, their hearts were as hard as stone, with predetermined thoughts and callousness. They had a heart of pride in their abilities, positions, degrees, and pedigrees, and they hated Jesus, His Words, His Righteousness, His Works, and His power among the people. So they sought to destroy Him!

“The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee? ²¹Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel. ²²Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man. ²³If 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? ²⁴Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.” John 7:20-24

B. Interaction with “people” – These are a few of the two hundred thousand people who came to Jerusalem for the feast. Here we read of some who were in the temple and listening to Jesus' teachings. They interrupt Him with a question! Having a very high opinion of the Religious Leaders, they were unaware and very skeptical that they might have a plan to kill Jesus! They even scorned this statement.

The People’s Question:

“Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?” – The common pilgrims were honestly surprised by the Religious Leaders’ intent to kill Jesus! Did you notice the reference to Jesus having a “devil” or demon? This was the Jewish “go-to” statement when they felt someone was “crazy,” “out of touch,” or “not living in reality.” They were scoffing at Him! But Jesus simply ignored them and continued with His teaching. You know in the face of ridicule, that should be our reaction too!

Jesus’ Answer:

“I have done one work” – This “one work” implied here is the healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda, some 18 months before. This was the miracle that caused a great stir among the religious leaders of Jerusalem. In John 5:16 and 18, we read that they sought to kill Jesus for healing this man on the Sabbath and making it clear that He was the Son of God! It was this healing that drove Jesus away from Jerusalem and Judea and to minister in Galilee for an extended period of time. Let's notice how Jesus reminded them how they all marveled at the healing! This was the “one work” that still drove much of the negative feelings and controversy toward Jesus! So He will address it...

“ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man” – God first gave Abraham circumcision. It was a sign of being set apart for God as His special people. Later, the circumcision of an eight-day-old baby boy was part of the Mosaic Law, the Law handed to Moses by God. There was no argument; if the 8th day fell on the Sabbath, it was accepted that the circumcision would be carried out on the Sabbath! Circumcision was a sacred work that was accomplished regardless of the day of the week.

Please realize that the debate of Jesus' healing on the Sabbath was an old one. The incident of Jesus healing the man with the withered hand is found in Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:4; Luke 6:9. At that time, Jesus pointed out that even the Religious Leaders saw it as lawful to show acts of mercy to animals and protect property.

“are you angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?” – Jesus is successfully pointing out the inconsistencies and hypocrisy of the Religionists' hard hearts. Because Jesus could do this great work, giving strength to a man paralyzed for 38 years, and that He did it on the Sabbath, they were angry.

“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.” – Let’s not lose sight of who Jesus is speaking to. He is talking to the pilgrims who have come to Jerusalem and to the others listening there in the temple. The highly revered Pharisees and Rabbis were easily swaying the hearts of the people. Solomon spoke of this type of biased thinking in Proverbs 24:23, “...It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.” This

emphasizes the need for individuals to think for themselves based on the truth of the Law and the character of God. Jesus is saying, “Don’t judge according to titles, money, and power but according to God’s righteousness.” And that was not what was being done that day!

“Then said some of them of Jerusalem , Is not this he, whom they seek to kill ? ²⁶But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ? ²⁷Howbeit we know this man whence (Lit. – is from, comes from) he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is. ²⁸Then cried (Gk. – Very loudly so all could hear; the earnest making of a public declaration – same word John 1:15; 12:44) 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. ²⁹But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.” John 7:25-29

C. Interaction with “them of Jerusalem” – These were the locals of Jerusalem. They would have a more limited knowledge of Jesus, but certainly more insight into the Religious Leaders’ hatred and plans to kill Him.

The “them of Jerusalem” Question:

“Is not this he, whom they seek to kill?” v. 25 – The boldness of Jesus was very surprising to the locals. Jesus had not been in Jerusalem for well over a year, the rumors of the hate and desire to kill Jesus were well known, yet Jesus was not acting like a man with a target on His back, and with that, the Religious Leaders were doing nothing!! The climate against Jesus was something that the pilgrims, who had come for the feast, did not understand! Yet the locals saw the lack of action against Jesus by the Jewish Leadership as very confusing to the point that they started to wonder if these rulers had changed their minds!

“Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?” – Had the rulers decided Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah? Jesus had **clearly said** that He was the Messiah. His **teachings** were so knowledgeable and bold. His **miracles demonstrated** that He was the Messiah. He had power over illness, demons, all of nature, and even death! Were the Religious Leaders beginning to believe Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah!? The confusion and debate were so great!

It Can’t Be: But here is where they go wrong. The people will base their understanding of who Jesus was on **faulty thinking and faulty tradition**, not on Scripture and truth!

“we know this man whence he is” – It was a studied fact from the Old Testament that the Messiah was to come from Bethlehem, a son of David from the city of David. But the people thought they knew Jesus was from Nazareth, a lowly, out-of-the-way, wrong side of the tracks town! The cutting clique was, “no good thing comes out of Nazareth.” Matthew 13:55-56; Luke 4:22; John 6:42 And that was where everyone thought Jesus was from! WRONG – **Faulty thinking!** They did not fact-check! Now, we all know that He was born in the right place, Bethlehem!

“when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is.” – Tradition said that the Messiah would someday suddenly appear out of nowhere in Jerusalem to set up a mighty kingdom. This thought had some grounds in Scripture but had developed into much more than prophecy given by God’s appointed messengers. It was mixed

with many untruths and had developed into a traditional teaching disconnected from the truth of Scripture. It had become a **Faulty tradition**.

It is a sad thing to realize that all the Jews, the Religious Leaders, and the common population made their judgment on the person of Jesus based on opinions, **faulty teachings, faulty traditions**, and very little study! Wow! But I'm afraid that it still happens today! People do not **fact-check** with the Bible!

Jesus' Answer:

“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. But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.” v. 28-29 – Jesus was earnestly announcing this truth! He wanted all to hear, not only those within His teaching circle but all those He could reach with the sound of His voice! He wanted to answer their confusion again! All the people needed to hear and understand: the pilgrims, the locals, and certainly the Religious Leadership! And He will continue what He had been saying all along! John 5:43; 8:14, 19, 26, 42, 55; 10:15; 15:21

- You think you know me: They thought they knew who Jesus was, just an ordinary man from an ordinary town, but they really didn't know Him! He was not ordinary, and neither was He from an ordinary place!
- Continued Debate on Jesus' Origin and Authority – “God sent me.” The truth was, He had come sent from God! He says it again! He was from the true God, and Jesus knew Him! This is more than the statement of a prophet, one sent from God with a message. He knew God! Look at John 5:19-24 – He was the Son come to do the Father's work! But here in this passage is a very sad statement: Jesus said to these listeners, “whom ye know not.” They could not recognize Jesus because they didn't know His Father! This was a very serious accusation because they were proud Jews, the Sons of Abraham, God's chosen people. But they worshipped a God of their own making, not the true God, so when their Messiah walked among them, they not only didn't recognize Him, and they hated Him instead! John 1:10-13; 8:19

What was the reaction of the people? What was their response? Confusion, division, and a desire for blood!

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

³¹And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?” John 7:30-31

D. Great Division in the Temple

“sought to take him” – The understanding here is not taking Jesus for a social outing, but violence and death! Just as Jesus' hometown people spontaneously wanted to throw Him off the local cliff after declaring He was the one spoken of in Isaiah, these overzealous people of Jerusalem wanted to forget the inactive leadership and take Jesus out and stone Him for these statements themselves! That was what was done with blasphemers, and this was their reaction to Jesus' statement, “*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. But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.*” Other words, ‘I am from God, I know Him, and you do not!’ These statements drove them to a frenzied, hate-filled desire for blood! Shepherd, in his book on Jesus' life, said this: “Christ's offer of Himself as the Son of

God who had come to reveal God was rejected by the multitude.” p. 278 But please realize, the rejection of Jesus often comes with anger and hostility even today!

Yet we read that...

“many of the people believed on him” – And what was the driving force for this belief? It was the vast number of unexplainable, incredible miracles of Jesus! No prophet of Israel had ever done anything like them! Could he truly be the Christ, the Messiah!? These miracles seemed to confirm it. They had been prophesied in their Scriptures. And because of them, many believed He might be the Christ! This really was the beginning of a full understanding of the person of Jesus – His deity and purpose. (John 10:38) But sadly, most were blinded to the truth by their opinions, preconceived ideas, based on **faulty traditions and teachings!**

“**The Pharisees heard that the people murmured (Lit. - undercurrent of discussion, quiet arguing, complaining about, secret muttering, whispered disagreements, quiet disputing) such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests (Lit. - Sadducees) (remember these two groups were not friends or united in nothing else but hatred against Jesus) 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 (Lit – common Jewish term meaning all Jews that live outside of Palestine) 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?”** John 7:32-36

E. Religious Leaders Unite Against Jesus

Move to Officially Arrest Jesus: This really was what the Religious Leaders wanted to do! Arrest Jesus! Try Jesus! Condemn Jesus! So, they sent the official temple guards to take Him.

Jesus’ Answer: Jesus is giving amazing, profound statements to these people in the temple! He had been gone for quite some time. And now, within the beauty of the Temple courtyards, He tells them again, He came from God, whom they don’t know, and now, during all this tension and confusion, Jesus goes on with this statement!

“Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me.” – Jesus is prophesying the future. He is telling this hostile group of officers, and probably accompanying Pharisees and chief priests, that He will leave them soon and return to the one who sent Him. This is the first time He will make such a declaration! Remember, the disciples are hearing this too, and He will repeat it to them in the Upper Room in a few short months! John 13:33; 14:19; 16:16

But now He adds this statement...

“Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.” – Jesus made it very clear that where He was going they could not come! Wow! But this is what He said in the Sermon on the Mount a couple years before - Matthew 5:20. And He will continue to say it – John 8:21.

Religious Leaders’ Confusion: I smile when I realize the Pharisees and Sadducees immediately began to interpret Jesus’ statements, but as usual with spiritual things, they are completely off in their thinking!

“Whither will he go?” – and came up with their own critical and sarcastic theory. “will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles?” other words, “Is He going to live among the dispersed Jews across the empire and tell the dog Gentiles His false teachings!” Again, we see the Religious Leaders being full of hate, now both to Jesus and the Gentiles. But isn’t it wonderful to realize that later Jesus will send His followers with the Gospel to all the world – Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles!

“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?” – Such confusion! It seems they thought Jesus could not hide from them, and though happy that He was leaving, run out of town, they wondered where He was going and why they could not hunt Him down and find Him!

Believers’ Application:

1. Are you a vocal believer in Jesus? Everyone at the Feast of Tabernacles was talking about Jesus, the Religious Leadership, the pilgrims, and the locals. Some believed He was a good man (v. 12), others a deceiver (v. 12), or demon-possessed (v. 20), and a few thought He might be the Messiah (v. 26). Everyone was willing to talk about Him, but no one was willing to stand up for or with Him before the crowds. Opinions were very divided. The belief that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God, was not the popular position. But how about us? Do we only speak of Christ when it is comfortable and common, and are unwilling to side with and stand for Him amidst opposition? (v. 13) Let’s have courage, pray for opportunity, and be bold! Jesus gave this instruction to the disciples when sending them out on their first solo mission, as recorded in Matthew 10:24-33. “Fear them not” – our natural reaction is fear, but Jesus always tells us to “fear not.” Why?

1. You have an important message to tell! v. 26-27 We have the Gospel, words of everlasting life. It is an important message! What you have learned, teach, and preach. What God has revealed to you, proclaim!
2. You have an eternal home in heaven! v. 28 Yes, people have lost their lives to the God-haters of the world. The Devil seeks to stop the Gospel message and often will orchestrate the death of God’s messengers. But Jesus reminds His followers that these unbelievers are not able to kill the soul. Later, Paul will tell the Corinthian believers, “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.” 2 Cor. 5:8-9
3. You are valuable to God! v. 29-33 In this passage, Jesus uses the beautiful illustration of the birds and numbered hair. Many of you know, I love birds. My two sons and I share it; we all have the same bird app and often discuss the various birds we have heard or seen lately. Jesus loved birds, of course, He made them! We find Him using them as teaching tools to the crowds. Jesus points out how cheap two little birds were. I am going to quote myself from the lesson about this passage, Vol. 4 Part 5 Lesson 2 on “Jesus Sends out the Twelve.”

“God values His own, He sees them and keeps a close account of them! Twice in the Gospels, Jesus used the market value of sparrows to encourage His followers! After a quick search, I found that people would roast sparrows over a fire. It was described as a sparrow kabob! Needless to say, sparrow was a poor man’s meat. But

our all-omniscient God knows every movement of these common, insignificant birds. In the scheme of things, the death of a sparrow is not noteworthy, but to God, He takes note of it! I also love that Jesus twice uses the numbering of one's hair in the Gospels. Hair has always been a point of teasing between my husband and me. God gave me a big, thick head of hair, and John received fine, feathery light hair and, unfortunately, thinning. But it doesn't matter to God; He has them all counted! I certainly have more than John, but that is ok! So Jesus' point was if God knows the fate of sparrows and the number of each person's hair, then He certainly knows our troubles, pain, fears, needs, weakness, loneliness, and suffering, both in persecution for His name's sake, and in life!" Let's remember you are valuable to God, so we don't have to fear! Jesus concludes in verses 32-33 by telling the disciples that God will know the work they have done for Him. As we confess Jesus before man, God will know. But if we refuse to speak in fear, God will also know our faithlessness. Let's go in courage and boldness because we have an important message to tell, we have an eternal home in heaven, and we are valuable to God!

2. We have been examining the confusion surrounding Jesus that existed after three years of His ministry. Many had limited knowledge of His works and words; some relied on the opinions of others; and others approached Jesus with a predetermined mindset. Please understand that this remains the same today – many people have limited knowledge of Jesus, depend on others' thoughts or teachings about Jesus, or hold a predetermined opinion of Him. But really, we all need to search out who Jesus is individually! Let's see who Jesus is according to the Bible!

Fill in the blanks with the correct word: WAY; ETERNAL; GOD; TRUSTWORTHY; SAVIOR

1. John 1:1-3; 14; 10:30-33 - Jesus is God. We must believe the clear teaching of the Scripture: **Jesus is God!** It is because of His deity and sinlessness that His blood sacrifice for sin is sufficient to make us right before God, allowing us to live eternally in heaven with God! 2 Cor. 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."
2. John 1:29; 3:17; 4:42; 1 John 4:14-15; Romans 6:23 - Jesus is Savior. We must believe the clear teaching of Scripture: **Jesus is Savior!** God the Father sent Jesus into the world to die on the cross to save sinners! That was God's will for Christ. Jesus obediently went to the cross for each one of us. He came to save sinners – He is our Savior! "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16
3. John 3:16; 11:25-26; 14:6; Romans 10:9; 1 Timothy 2:5-6 - Jesus is the only Way to God. We must believe the clear teaching of Scripture: **Jesus is the only Way to God!** Jesus, and only Jesus, bridges the sin gap between us and the holy God of Heaven! It is "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us; by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior;" Titus 3:5-6
4. John 12:44-50; 14:1, 14; Philippians 4:19 - Jesus is Trustworthy. We must believe the clear teaching of Scripture: **Jesus is Trustworthy!** Jesus can be trusted! His words are from God, He's full of wisdom and compassion. He only desires our best. And He never changes! 2 Timothy 2:13 tells us, that "If we

believe not, (meaning are faithless) yet he abideth faithful, he cannot deny himself.” Jesus is always trustworthy! We can trust His words, and death for us on the cross!

5. John 1:1; 8:58; 16:27-28; 1John 5:20 - Jesus is Eternal. We must believe the clear teaching of Scripture: **Jesus is Eternal!** In the Upper Room, Jesus said it plainly, ‘I came from heaven, and I will return to heaven!’ In the Book of Revelation, John the Apostle recounts for his readers a conversation he had with the resurrected and ascended Jesus. Let me finish with Jesus description of Himself found in Revelation 22:13 “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.”

We must believe the clear teaching of Scripture: Jesus is **God**, He is the provided **Savior**, He is the only **way** to God, He is absolutely **trustworthy**, and He is **eternal!** Please realize that just as Peter preached to the Jews in Jerusalem, found in Acts 4:12, that “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”