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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

3750 Washington Street, Sanford, FL 32771; www.RefugeSanford.com

**Elder Joel Brooks, Pastor**

**Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Diocesan**

**“COME AND DRINK”**

**John 7:32-53**

***John 7:32 "The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him."***

This kind of talk from Jesus was apparently the last straw, so they tried to seize him. But notice this: No one laid a hand on him because his hour had not yet come. An angry mob wanted to lay their hands on Jesus. He stood before them, alone and defenseless. But nothing happened because it wasn’t in God’s sovereign schedule. When the Pharisees heard that many from the crowd believed in [Jesus], they sent servants to arrest him. Apparently, they didn’t realize that seizing Jesus wasn’t working out too well! (No matter how bad your circumstances appear, nothing can harm you outside of God’s will and timing.) These Pharisees and chief priests greatly feared losing their people to this man from Nazareth. Their jealousy, because He could perform miracles that they could not do, nearly drove them mad. They were afraid of losing their elevated place with the Jews. They were not doing this for God, as they said, but for their own selves. The fear the Pharisees had, was that these Jewish people would believe and follow Him, and the Pharisees and priests would not hold their lofty position anymore.

***John 7:33 "Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and [then] I go unto him that sent me."***

***John 7:34 "Ye shall seek me, and shall not find [me]: and where I am, [thither] ye cannot come."***

***John 7:35 "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?"***

***John 7:36 "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?"***

Jesus told those listening that he would only be with them for a little while longer. They’d look for him but be unable to find or follow him. Though Jesus was talking about his return to heaven at his ascension, the Jews were still thinking on the physical level rather than the spiritual, and they wondered where he was planning to go. Approaching God’s Word at the purely physical level will inevitably result in confusion. We need our antennae tuned to God’s heavenly broadcast. Jesus is speaking of His crucifixion, but they do not understand. Jesus speaks of going to the Father in heaven who sent Him. The reason they will not be able to follow Him, is because He will ascend into heaven. Many of the Jews did not believe in life after death. The Jews were conceited, believing that Messiah would have nothing to do with those who were not Jewish. Little did they know that they were prophetically speaking of the very thing He would do. He, indeed, does go to the Gentiles when the Jews rejected Him. It was unbelievable to them that anyone would go to teach the Gentiles. They ask really sarcastically, "Is that where you are going?" This is a confusing statement to them, because they think Jesus is a mere man. They feel free to go anywhere any other man can go, so they feel it would be impossible for Jesus to go anywhere they could not go.

***John 7:37 "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."***

***John 7:38 "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."***

***John 7:39 "(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet [given]; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)"***

On the last day of the festival, the Jews engaged in a water-pouring ritual. While this was happening, Jesus called out, If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. There is only one oasis for those who are in a spiritual desert. If you’re spiritually parched, go to Jesus. He won’t merely quench your thirst; he’ll provide internal streams of living water. But it gets better. His is no impersonal water supply; this living water is actually the Holy Spirit, who comes to dwell within believers to give them eternal life. Yet Jesus would first have to be glorified that is, crucified and resurrected. This is that spiritual water that Jesus told the woman at the well about.

***John 4:10 “Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”***

***John 4:14-15***

***14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.***

***15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.***

***John 14:16-20***

***16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;***

***17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.***

***18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.***

***19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.***

***20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.***

Jesus then, and here also, was speaking of the Spirit of God. The end of the Feast of Tabernacles commemorated the end of the wilderness wanderings and their new life. What a celebration that will be, to know the old life is over [wandering in the wilderness] and a new life of promise begins. Perhaps, this is why this is spoken of as a great day. It surely symbolizes salvation when our old life is over, and because we believe in Him, our new life begins. This gift of the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of the risen Christ. Verse 39 is a prophetic statement of the infilling (baptism) of the believer with the Holy Ghost after Jesus' ascension into heaven. One of God’s purposes since the beginning has been to dwell with humanity and enjoy fellowship with us. He does it in this dispensation through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

***1 Corinthians 12:13 “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”***

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit occurs automatically when a person is saved; and without it one cannot be saved. It is not a separate experience subsequent to salvation. When Paul met 12 disciples of John who were believers but did not know of the Holy Spirit. He knew they needed the Holy Spirit to be saved. So, he followed the biblical pattern of salvation by baptizing and laying hands on them for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

***Acts 19:1-5***

***1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,***

***2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.***

***3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.***

***4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.***

***5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.***

***6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.***

***Romans 8:9 “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”***

***Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”***

The Bible identifies the Father and the Holy Spirit as one and the same being. The title of Holy Spirit simply describes what the Father is. There is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). The “only true God” is the Father (John 17:3), and He is one Spirit (John 4:24). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father, not a different person from the Father. For example, Jesus said that in times of persecution God would give us proper words to say, “for it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you” (Matthew 10:20). Jesus spoke of God as our Father in terms of personal relationship, but with reference to supernatural indwelling and anointing Jesus spoke of God as the Holy Spirit. By definition, the one who begets (causes conception) is the father of the one begotten. The Holy Spirit is literally the Father of Jesus, for Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18, 20). If the Father and the Holy Spirit were two persons, then Jesus would have two fathers. When the Bible speaks of the man Christ Jesus in relationship to God it uses the title of Father, but when it speaks of God’s action in causing the baby Jesus to be conceived it uses the title of Holy Ghost so that there will be no mistake about the supernatural, spiritual nature of this work. In Jesus Christ dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9). Thus, the Holy Spirit is literally the Spirit that was in the man Jesus Christ. Apostolics recognize that God is one Spirit and that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the risen, living Christ that dwells in us. As our Father, God has told us how to live; in the Son God has shown us how to live and provided an atonement for our sins; and as the indwelling Holy Spirit God enables us to live for Him every day. The Word of God teaches that when we are baptized (infilled) with the Holy Ghost, we speak with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance. Speaking in tongues is the biblical initial evidence, or sign, of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This biblical pattern of salvation is evidenced throughout the Book of Acts: (1) the coming of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2; (2) the revival in Samaria in Acts 8; (3) the outpouring of the Spirit on the household of Cornelius in Caesarea in Acts 10; and (4) the reception of the Holy Ghost by the disciples of John the Baptist at Ephesus in Acts 19. Other accounts, such Paul’s experience (Acts 9) and writings (I Corinthians 12-14) are also important in studying the initial evidence.

***John 7:40 "Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet."***

***John 7:41 "Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee?"***

***John 7:42 "Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Beth-lehem, where David was?"***

***John 7:43 "So there was a division among the people because of him."***

As happened previously (7:25-29), the crowd was divided because of him. It seems there was much confusion about who Jesus is, in these verses. Many wanted to say that Jesus was the promised Prophet that would come right before Messiah. They knew there was something great and wonderful about Him, but they still thought Him to be the son of Joseph instead of the Son of God. The best thing they could think to say was, He is the great Prophet. They believed because of the miracles and because of the powerful undisputed message He brought. It appears they do not know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Some believed because of His overwhelming power in miracles and His message that they declare, "This is Messiah". As soon as they say this must be Messiah, others say don't you know Messiah will not come out of Galilee? They are overlooking the fact of His Bethlehem birth, possibly because He has not reminded them. They know the letter of the law. It does say just that. Jesus fulfilled this, He [in the flesh] was in the lineage of David and He was born in Bethlehem. You see, even this argument is in error. They were working on here- say, rather than on the realities. You see, some believed He [Jesus] was a great prophet but did not believe that He was Messiah. Others believed He was an imposter, and still others believed He was truly Messiah because of His great miracles.

***John 7:44 "And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him."***

***John 7:45 "Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?"***

***John 7:46 "The officers answered, Never man spake like this man."***

Though some of them wanted to seize him no one laid hands on him. Trying and failing to arrest Jesus, then, was becoming a habit. Frustrated with the servants whom they had sent to seize him, the chief priests and Pharisees asked, why didn’t you bring him? All the servants could respond with was, no man ever spoke like this! In other words, they said, “We intended to grab him, but then we heard him talk and changed our minds!” Jesus’s sermon was so mesmerizing that it prevented them from obeying wicked men. This was because it was not God's time for Him to suffer yet. God must stand aside, before any man could take Jesus. It appears these officers were to go and capture Jesus and bring Him back to the chief priests and Pharisees, so that they could pass judgment on Him. They said, " We sent you for Him, why didn't you bring Him back?" These officers were so impressed by what Jesus said and did, that they did not try to arrest Him. They could see no wrong He was doing, only good.

***John 7:47 "Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived?"***

***John 7:48 "Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?"***

The Pharisees rebuked the servants. These Pharisees had their minds closed off. The miracles Jesus did and the great power and wisdom He showed in His sermons had not swayed their fixed minds in the least. Their jealousy had blinded them. These Pharisees were so afraid of losing their haughty position, they would not fairly listen to what Jesus had said. The officers had heard and seen enough that they were not convinced that there was any wrongdoing by Jesus. In fact, Jesus' words and deeds had swayed the officer's opinions toward Jesus.

***John 7:49 "But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed."***

***John 7:50 "Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,)"***

***John 7:51 "Doth our law judge [any] man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?"***

Here we see the Pharisees judging the officers. They go so far as to say they are cursed because they know not the law like the Pharisees. The Pharisees despise the rural people who do not rigidly observe the law. Nicodemus believed Jesus, but he was afraid of his colleagues finding out. He had come to Jesus by night [in secret]. Even though he believed, he would not stand up and be counted on Jesus' side. Here, he tries to take up for Jesus without saying that he believed the Nazarene. He says in effect, you are judging Him before you have all the facts. Give Him a fair trial. It is believed that Nicodemus was probably John’s source for this event.

***John 7:52 "They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet."***

***John 7:53 "And every man went unto his own house."***

These Pharisees are accusing the officers of being from Galilee, as if they were the only people who believed and followed Jesus. They are advising these officers to look at the law when they themselves had not looked deeply into Jesus' background. “Out of Galilee ariseth no prophet”: Of course they were wrong. Jonah came from Gath-hepher in Galilee (2 Kings 14:25); Nahum was from El Kosh, which may have been Capernaum (lit., “Village of Nahum”), renamed in honor of the prophet (Nahum 1:1). Also, Hosea is believed to have been from Galilee. Jesus was born in Bethlehem where the promised Messiah was to be born. This could not be solved to the satisfaction of the Pharisees and priests, so they just all went home and forgot it for the moment.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who sent the officers to take Jesus?
2. Why did they want Jesus taken?
3. Who did Jesus tell them He was going to?
4. When Jesus said they couldn't go, where did they think He was talking about?
5. What were the Jews prophetically talking of, unawares to them?
6. Why is this statement Jesus made confusing unto them?
7. He that believeth on Me as the Scripture said, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. What water is Jesus speaking of?
9. What had Jesus told the woman at the well about this water?
10. The end of the feast of tabernacles represented the end of what?
11. Why was the Holy Ghost not yet given?
12. What is verse 39 prophetically speaking of?
13. Many people, when they heard this, said that Jesus was \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Why did they believe?
15. When some said, this is Christ, what sarcastic remark did others make?

16. What 2 things did they say the Scripture say about Christ?
17. Why was there a division among the people?
18. What 3 different things were believed among the Jews about Jesus?
19. Who did the officer report back to?
20. What reason did he give for not taking Jesus?
21. What were the officers accused of being?
22. The Pharisees said, those who knew not the law were \_\_\_\_\_.
23. Who said, "Doth our law judge any man before it hear Him?
24. What had Nicodemus previously done?
25. What did the Pharisees and priests ask Nicodemus?
26. Where did they say the Scriptures say, ariseth no prophet?
27. When they ran out of argument, what did they do