

The Messianic Dilemma

Many will come claiming to be the Christ, but how will we know when the genuine Christ – Messiah – arrives. The Jews had been expecting their Messiah for many years and now Jesus arrived and taught publicly that He was sent from God causing quite a stir amongst the Jews. Some things that Jesus taught and did were above the ordinary causing many to wonder and even believe that He was the expected Messiah. Others had other doubts. We ought not to judge them because many of us – especially the more skeptical amongst us – would probably had questions and doubts as to whether Jesus really was the Messiah. Thus Jesus had not merely caused a stir but he had caused a dilemma to whether he was truly the Messiah or not.

John 7: 25 – 52

1) Are our facts correct?

- We will often be challenged on our beliefs concerning Jesus.
 - If so do we know what we believe concerning Him?
 - Do we know the facts?
 - Even though we live by faith in Him the Bible gives many facts to testify to Him
 - Do we live by blind faith who is our own faith in Jesus based on God's word?
- Time doesn't allow us to go into depth of the Messianic facts. I will only be looking briefly at the questions raised in this passage of scripture.
- When the Christ comes no one will know where he is from. (v. 27)
 - Does not the scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem?
 - "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans" of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins" are from of old, from ancient times." (Micah 5: 2)
- Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? (v. 48)
 - Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number (v.50)
 - Acts 15:5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said ...
- Finding the facts
 - A prophet does not come out of Galilee (V.52)
 - Isaiah 9:1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan—
- Making prior judgments
 - Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him? (v.51)
 - We should not merely take the facts but hear from Jesus what He has to say about Himself.
 - The facts impart knowledge but hearing from Jesus imparts faith

2) Faith that comes from hearing

- What Jesus said about himself
 - Jesus speaks about where he is from (v.29)
 - He spoke about the Father having sent him
 - He said that he is from above and not from this world (John 8: 23)
 - Jesus speaks about where he is going (vs. 33 – 34)
 - He is going to the Father
- What other said about Jesus
 - No one spoke the way this man does (v 46)
 - When someone hears Jesus faith is imparted and a life is changed.
 - True faith never leaves us unchanged.

3) The benefits of faith in Jesus the Christ

- Streams of living water will flow from within him
 - We will receive the Holy Spirit
 - God within us
 - Colossian 2:9 & 10 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.
- The disciples received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
- The benefits of being filled with the Holy Spirit
 - The fruit of the Spirit is manifest in our lives – character of God (Galatians 5: 22 – 23)
 - The gifts of the Holy Spirit are evident for the building up of the body of Christ and ministry in the community (1 Corinthians 12: 1 – 11)
 - We receive power to be Jesus witnesses (Acts 1: 8)
 - We receive boldness to testify to God's grace (Acts 4: 31)