



Small Group Notes - John 7:1-19 - From Above 1

Some groups may find the following suggested questions a helpful starting point. Don't feel bound by them, rather work at understanding God's word for yourselves, praying that God will help you live in the light of it.

Introductory Questions

In John 7:24 Jesus tells his audience to make a right judgment about him, *"Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly."*

1. Can you think of a time when you have made a wrong judgment about a person or situation, maybe because of the way things appeared to you at first?
2. Can you think of a time when you have made a wrong judgment about Jesus? What changed your opinion of him?

In this week's passage we see Jesus challenge the wrong judgments that are being made about him.

Into God's Word

1. Looking back over chapter 6, what wrong agenda do the crowd have for following Jesus? (6:2, 14-15, 22-26).

Now Read 6:43-71

2. How is Jesus' agenda (the real reason he has come) different from the crowd's agenda?
3. In what ways are the crowd's response to Jesus' teaching surprising? In what ways is it unsurprising?

Now Read 7:1-9

4. How do Jesus' brothers show they have the same wrong agenda as the crowd?
5. What different reasons are given to explain why so many are making wrong judgments about Jesus?

Application to our lives today

6. In what ways might we, or people we know, be tempted by the wrong agenda of the crowd and of Jesus' brothers?
7. In what different ways can following Jesus for the 'wrong agenda' negatively impact our walk with him?
8. In what ways can we find ourselves 'grumbling' (6:41), feeling 'offended' (6:61) or even 'hating' (7:7) Jesus' real agenda for coming to this world?

9. In what different ways are we tempted to respond as people give up following Jesus because they find his teaching too 'hard' (6:60)? How does this compare with Jesus' response?

Finally read 7:10-19

Despite rejecting Jesus, the Jews can't help but be amazed at Jesus' teaching and wonder who has taught him these things.

10. How does Jesus' response in 7: 16-19 show us how/why we should make a right a judgment about Jesus?

11. What does this mean for us in our day to day lives?

Drawing it all together

This passage challenges us to have a right expectation of what Jesus has come to do. In the face of opposition, because of his love for us, he will not be deflected from his mission.

What has struck you most about Jesus as you have spent time looking at him in this session?

Now spend time in prayer.

Praising God for Jesus. Pray that we might have the right agenda for following Jesus. Pray we might be willing to face opposition for believing this things Jesus taught. Pray we might have an even clearer picture of Jesus at the start of 2019.