

ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS, PART TWO ... REFUSING THE GIFT OF LIFE

WHAT WENT WRONG?

**How do you diligently
study the Scriptures ...
... AND YET refuse to come
to the One the Scriptures
testify about ...**

HOLY BIBLE

**GOD'S DIVINE,
INSPIRED, INERRANT,
AUTHORITATIVE WORD**

(John 5:39-40 NIV)

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

They refused to come to the "Giver of Life" to receive the gift of life ...

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

(JOHN 3:16 ESV)

You search the Scriptures

[you study the Bible]

because you think that in them you have eternal life;

and it is they that bear witness about me,

yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

(John 5:39-40 ESV)

QUESTIONS WE NEED TO ASK ...

Why did they think like this?

Why were they unwilling to come to Christ?

- **FIRST QUESTION: WHY DID THEY THINK LIKE THIS?**

The most simple, basic answer is that they thought like this because of their religious training—both formal such as rabbinical training and informal as was instituted by Moses in passages such as Deuteronomy 6.

- (Deuteronomy 6:1 ESV) Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it.
- (Deuteronomy 6:6-7 ESV) And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

They were taught to value the word of God. So what went wrong? They were no longer led by the word of God.

- **SECOND QUESTION: WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THIS CHANGE OF DIRECTION IN THEIR APPROACH TO THE SCRIPTURES?**

Their message from Scripture became more important than God's message and as a result, they neither heard God's voice nor had God's message in their hearts. Sound familiar? And this is what we see unfolding in John five as the Jews accuse Jesus of breaking the Sabbath.

- (John 5:10 ESV) So the Jews said to the man

who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed."

- (John 5:16 ESV) And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.

An Overview & Summary: The Jews accused Jesus of breaking God's rules. But what the Jews were actually angry about was that Jesus did not follow their rules of the Sabbath and made himself equal with God.

- (John 5:18 ESV) This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Now the Jews wanted to kill him even more. In 5:19-30 Jesus responds by telling them that what he does is by example and in complete unity and harmony with the Father. And in 5:31-36 informs them that not only were his works approved by the Father but they were the very works that the Father had sent him to do.

- **THIRD QUESTION: WAS JESUS'S CLAIM IN MAKING HIMSELF EQUAL WITH GOD VALID? AND, IF SO, WHY DIDN'T THEY "GET IT"?**

Jesus's claim to be God was valid because he is God, and as God, he is lord of the Sabbath.

- (Matthew 12:1-8 ESV) At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." 3 **He said to them, "Have you not read** what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: 4 how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? 5 **Or have you not read** in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? 6 I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. 7 **And if you had known what this means,** I desire mercy, and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the guiltless. 8 **For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.**"
- (Mark 2:27-28 ESV) And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

- (John 1:1–3 ESV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- (Colossians 1:16–17 ESV) For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- (Hebrews 1:3 ESV) He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.
- **FOURTH QUESTION: SINCE JESUS'S CLAIM WAS VALID, THEN WHY DIDN'T THEY "GET IT"?**

DAGGER TIME

->You have never heard God's voice

->You have never seen his form

->You do not have his word living in you

->You do not believe the one whom he sent

- (John 5:37–38 ESV) And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. **His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, 38 and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.**
- **FIFTH QUESTION: WHAT WENT SO WRONG THAT THEY WERE NOT WILLING (REFUSED) TO COME TO THE ONE OF WHOM THEIR SCRIPTURES TESTIFIED?**
- (John 5:39–40 ESV) You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.
They searched the Scriptures for eternal life but refused to acknowledge the direction in which the Scriptures pointed them—to Jesus Christ ... to the one whom they needed to come to that they may have life.

Why did they refuse to come to Christ?

Their **SELF-SEEKING RELIGION** had crippled them in their relationship with God, had devastated their faith and had rendered them incapable of believing God and coming to Christ.

They settled for the lesser glory of human honor and attention on which religion feeds and which is in opposition to seeking the glory that comes from the only God.

Their **SELF-SEEKING RELIGION** religion had moved them **away from, not toward,** God and his word.

- (John 5:41–44 ESV) I do not receive glory from people. 42 But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

• **SIXTH QUESTION: WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THESE VERY RELIGIOUS PEOPLE?**

- (John 5:45–47 ESV) Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

They would be judged by the truth they **professed to believe**—the writings of Moses—but which they **did not actually believe**.

Their own "stated" belief system will be the accusing voice when they stand before God at the final judgement.

• **SEVENTH QUESTION: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU? ARE YOU MERELY RELIGIOUS AND ON YOUR WAY TO HELL?**

Do you understand that only the righteousness we receive by faith in Jesus Christ puts us in right standing before a holy God?

SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS HERE

Place Here

Anything and everything
for which we are tempted
to take credit ...

ALL OF IT GOES RIGHT HERE ON THE "DOO-DOO" ROLL ...

all of our self-righteousness ...
self-seeking ... our self-
promotion ... **false humility**
... self-honoring religious
expressions ...

(Philippians 3:8 KJV) Yea
doubtless, and I count all
things but loss for the
excellency of the knowledge
of Christ Jesus my Lord: for
whom I have suffered the loss
of all things, **and do count
them but dung**, that I
may win Christ.

SELF-SEEKING RELIGION

*Yip. That's what it literally
says. In modern parlance
count all our self-effort at
righteousness as "doo-doo."*

- (Philippians 3:9 ESV) And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.
- (John 5:44 ESV) How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?
- (John 7:18 ESV) The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.
- (Romans 2:7-8 ESV) To those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.
- (1 Thessalonians 2:6 ESV) Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.