

From Questions to Belief

John 7:40-52





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- ◆ All major religions ask these questions:
- ◆ Who is God?
- ◆ Is He knowable?
- ◆ What is the solution to man's problem?

John 7:40-42 (English Standard Version)

⁴⁰When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet."

⁴¹Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? ⁴²Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?"

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- ◆ Christ is back in hostile Jerusalem to answer some questions and to raise others - Why?
- ◆ To push us to believe...or not
- ◆ To raise up believers who will believe no matter what
- ◆ Verse 40 has a few believers = the remnant
- ◆ God, make us your faithful, believing remnant

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- ◆ They knew Messiah would come from Bethlehem... Why didn't they know Jesus was from Bethlehem?
- ◆ Too busy with silly questions to ask

Romans 1:18-19, 22-23 (English Standard Version)

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

John 7:43-44 (English Standard Version)

⁴³So there was a division among the people over him. ⁴⁴ Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

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- ◆ Why are there such strong divisions about Jesus?
- ◆ We present Him in relatively safe and comforting terms
- ◆ He made MUCH larger claims about Himself; fantastic claims that beg the question - Will you believe?
- ◆ Don't come to Christ or present Him as anything short of this!

John 7:45-48 (English Standard Version)

⁴⁵ The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" ⁴⁶The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!" ⁴⁷The Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived?" ⁴⁸ Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him?

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- ◆ In the religious leaders' blaming, you sense their pride and unwillingness to change
- ◆ They embarrass the guards and make it sound like you have to choose between Christ and position/power/authority
- ◆ These things are not theirs to give!
- ◆ Watch out for this kind of mockery
- ◆ Lots of pressure for "smart" people to not believe for academic and intellectual respect

John 7:49-52 (English Standard Version)

⁴⁹But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." ⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, ⁵¹"Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" ⁵²They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

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- ◆ Now we're into 2 kinds of rejection - intellectual and volitional = mind and will
- ◆ Will addressed in 7:17
- ◆ Mind is often a part of God's saving process
- ◆ Apologetics - an intentional effort to soften the intellectual rejection
- ◆ So many great resources

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- ◆ Mere Christianity - Lewis Orthodoxy - Chesterton
- ◆ Reasonable Faith - Lane Reason for God - Keller
- ◆ "Case" books - Strobel Christian Apologetics - Geisler
- ◆ The End of Reason - Zacharias
- ◆ More than a Carpenter - McDowell
- ◆ How to Think about God - Adler

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- ◆ Who knows someone who's rejecting God with intellectual reasons?
- ◆ How can you address these?
- ◆ Those aren't the hard ones - the hard ones are the willfully rejecting
- ◆ We must be radically dependent on prayer and the Spirit

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- ◆ Intellectually convinced does not equal belief
- ◆ Jesus says believe, drink, eat, and live

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- ◆ Pray for our church to be a faithful and mighty remnant
- ◆ Have you given in to mockery or fear of others?

AUDIO/VISUAL TEAM

- Help us creatively deliver the Gospel Message – join the media team!
 - No experience necessary!
 - Training provided
 - All ages welcome!
 - Contact Pastor Jimmy



COME
TO THE TABLE

A NIGHT OF WORSHIP

TONIGHT @ 6PM

Hilton Garden Inn

Clothing Drive

Help us continue our ministry to the families of VBS!

- ⦿ We are collecting clothing for all ages, genders, and sizes!
- ⦿ Bring your donations through **July 31st**
- ⦿ Help us deliver on **August 4th at 6:30 PM**

