**The Gospel of John:**

**My Teaching is not Mine,**

**but Him who sent Me**

*John 7:14-24*

**Context**

Jesus’ teaching continued to drive people in one of two directions—either for Him or against Him. “*The one who is not with Me is against Me; and the one who does not gather with Me scatters*” (**Matthew 12:30**). John the Baptist, Phillip, Nathanael, the Woman at the well, many Samaritans in the village of Sychar as well as the disciples believed in Him. Peter said on behalf of the twelve, “*We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God”* (**John 6:69**).

The majority, however, rejected the claims of Jesus. “*He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.****11****He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him*” (**John 1:10-11**). Jesus knew exactly who would believe and who would not. “’But there are some of you who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him” (**John 6:64**).

Here, Jesus goes to the feast in Jerusalem mid-way though the feast in secret to avoid the likely detection and premature capture of Him before His time by the religious leaders. When He does arrive, He begins to openly teach in the Temple where they are astonished at what He knows and says.

**John 7:14-24**—But when it was now the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and *began to* teach. **15**The Jews then were astonished, saying, “How has this man become learned, having never been educated?” **16**So Jesus answered them and said, “My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. **17**If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or *whether* I speak from Myself. **18**He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. **19**“Did not Moses give you the Law, and *yet* none of you carries out the Law? Why do you seek to kill Me?” **20**The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who seeks to kill You?” **21**Jesus answered them, “I did one deed, and you all marvel. **22**For this reason Moses has given you circumcision (not because it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and on *the* Sabbath you circumcise a man. **23**If a man receives circumcision on *the* Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on *the* Sabbath? **24**Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

5 assertions validating His teaching

1. **My teaching is from My Father, vv15-16**
2. Jesus teaching was astonishing  
     
   **Matthew 7:28-29**—*When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching;****29****for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.*

**John 7:45-46**—*The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, “Why did you not bring Him?* ***46****The officers answered, “Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks.”*

1. When they couldn’t argue with His logic, they attacked Him   
   1. He has no “formal” education (Acts 4:13)
   2. They questioned His credentials
2. Jesus masterfully responds—you’re right, My teaching is not my own; it’s from my Father.  
     
   **John 12:49-50**—*For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.****50****I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.”*
   1. He’s learned without being educated
   2. When you can’t argue with the logic, attack the person
3. **Doubters are going to doubt, vv17**
4. Hard hearts are hard hearts—no matter how many miracles are done, they will refuse to believe
5. Conversely, anyone willing to do God’s will, will know  
     
   **1 John 2:20, 27**—*But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know….**As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.*

(Cf. **1 Corinthians 2:10-15**)

**Romans 8:16**—*The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God*

1. **Jesus selflessly pointing to the Giver of the teaching, v18**
2. False teachers are the same   
   1. They speak for themselves (on their own authority)

**Jeremiah 14:14**—*Then the Lord said to me, “The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds.”*

**Jeremiah 23:16**—*Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; They speak a vision of their own imagination, Not from the mouth of the Lord.”*

**Nehemiah 6:10-12**—*When I entered the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined at home, he said, “Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you, and they are coming to kill you at night.”****11****But I said, “Should a man like me flee? And could one such as I go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.”****12****Then I perceived that surely God had not sent him, but he uttered his prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.*

**Ezekiel 13:2, 6**—*“Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy from their own inspiration, ‘Listen to the word of the Lord!... They see falsehood and lying divination who are saying, ‘The Lord declares,’ when the Lord has not sent them; yet they hope for the fulfillment of their word.*

* 1. They seek their own glory  
     1. Not the glory of God
     2. They do not seek to feed the flock

**Micah 3:5, 11**—Thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who lead my people astray; When they have *something* to bite with their teeth, They cry, “Peace,” But against him who puts nothing in their mouths They declare holy war… Her leaders pronounce judgment for a bribe, Her priests instruct for a price And her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the Lord saying, “Is not the Lord in our midst? Calamity will not come upon us.”

**Ezekiel 34:2-3**—“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to those shepherds, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ez34&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-21316c)]feeding themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat *sheep* without feeding the flock. 

1. Jesus never sought His own glory   
   1. He was not a people pleaser **John 5:41**—*I do not receive glory from men;*

**John 8:50**—*But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges.*  
  
**Matthew 20:28**—…”just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

**Matthew 11:29**—*Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

**Philippians 2:6-8**—*who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,****7****but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.****8****Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

**1 Peter 2:24**—*and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.*

1. *There was no unrighteousness in Him*
2. **You’re all guilty under the law, vv19-20**
3. Jesus makes one of the most comprehensive statements on our natural condition
4. We are all guilty under the law

**Galatians 3:10-11, 21-24**—*For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them.”****11****Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, “The righteous man shall live by faith….Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.****22****But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.* ***23****But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.* ***24****Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.* 

**Galatians 5:3-6**—*And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.****4****You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.****5****For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.****6****For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.*

(Cf. **Romans 3:9-20**)

1. They prided themselves on keeping the Law of Moses
2. Their treatment of the One who gave it was less than consistent
3. Their desire to kill was a violation of the Ten commandments
4. They resented the thought, v20
5. It would be six months later that they would openly cry for His death   
     
   **Mark 15:13**—*They shouted back, “Crucify Him!”*
6. **Judge righteously, vv 21-24**
7. Jesus does one miracle and they are ticked
8. Healing the sick man at the pool of Bethesda (5:2-9)
9. That miracle proved His claim
10. Instead, it sent the trajectory of their hatred toward Jesus

**John 12:37**—*But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him.*

1. Then He shows up in the middle of the feast, **v14**
2. Jesus was equal with the Father   
     
   **John 5:16-17**—*For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.****17****But He answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.”*
3. God gave the Law through Moses
4. Circumcision actually predates Moses (**Genesis 17:10-14**).
5. It was required that every male be circumcised eight days after birth
6. If it fell on a Sabbath, they would circumcise anyway—despite the injunction in the Law about working
7. This only identified the hypocrisy of their system  
   1. An argument from the lesser to the greater
   2. Is making a whole man well not better than circumcising a child?
8. Do not judge according to appearance, but judge correctly  
   1. An indictment of their foolishness
   2. Self-righteous legalism always judges wrongly

**John 7:17**— *If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.*