

SERMON NOTES
January 30, 2011
R. Bryan Richardson, preaching

WHAT HAVE YOU ALREADY DECIDED ABOUT GOD?

John 7:1-17; 37-52

God will not hide from you, but you've got a decision to make.

- Pre-existing ideas about God will not survive the rigors of life.
v. 43

- Christ calls all such ideas into question.
vv. 28-29

- Those who seek the mind of Christ will find eternal life.
v. 17

John 7:1-17; 37-52

1 After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. **2** But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, **3** Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. **4** No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." **5** For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

6 Therefore Jesus told them, "My time is not yet here; for you any time will do. **7** The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. **8** You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come." **9** After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee.

10 However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. **11** Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, "Where is he?"

12 Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man."

Others replied, "No, he deceives the people." **13** But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders.

14 Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. **15** The Jews there were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having been taught?"

16 Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. **17** Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. **38** Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." **39** By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet."

41 Others said, "He is the Messiah."

Still others asked, "How can the Messiah come from Galilee? **42** Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" **43** Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. **44** Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

45 Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?"

46 "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards replied.

47 "You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted. **48** "Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? **49** No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them."

50 Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, **51** "Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?"

52 They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee."