

Discussion questions – October 5 – John’s gospel – 7:37-53

Welcome everyone back and be sure and welcome any guests...

1. How has God’s Word impacted your life this week?
2. How is everyone doing this week? Any new challenges? How have they seen God at work? (make this a regular feature, nothing encourages like reports of what God is doing in our lives.)
3. Any follow up or carry over from our last lesson?
4. What one point resonated with you from the lesson this morning? What stands out the most to you from this lesson?

5. To get things started: have you ever gotten into an argument and been so sure you were right, only to find out later you were actually wrong? Ever judged someone based on what you thought you knew about them? Discuss the great value of asking questions, listening, and having an open heart to learn. We see again in chapter 7 how pride gets people stuck and prevents them from seeing the truth.
6. We said last week there are some four references in John’s gospel where Jesus shouts, he doesn’t just speak, his voice booms out his message. Use your imagination, what do you think that was like? How do you think you would have responded? Ever have a teacher shout out the lesson?
7. Jesus in verse 37 says in effect, “I am the fulfillment of all the Old Testament feasts”! How do you think that claim landed?
Peter says we’re supposed to be ready to give an answer of the hope that is within us. In other words, a good apologetic. Yet, here is Jesus standing right before these people, doing miracles and speaking God’s truth, and they still reject him. What say you about that? How do those things fit together? Can you argue or convince someone into the faith? Can you perform miracles that will cause them to believe? What needs to happen?
8. What is it about the analogy of water and thirst that is so powerful and impactful? (thirst is a daily experience; strong desire) Only Jesus satisfies. How would you describe spiritual thirst? What did it look like or feel like to you? What have you tried to satisfy your thirst with?
9. Jesus’ promise to those who drink (believe) is astounding. Not just river singular, but plural! Not just a sip of water but a torrent! What does this look like in the Christian life? Do you think this is the normal experience for most Christians? Why? Why not? What does it mean if we’re not experiencing this as a believer? What do you do to ensure your heart stays soft toward God’s Word and truth?
10. Jesus invites people to come to him. Not to the church, not to a preacher, not to religion or baptism. What are the practical applications of this truth? How do we keep this truth central?
11. What we take away... Just as Jesus caused division in his day, so Jesus and the gospel cause division today. Share about Christ and the gospel anyway. Leave the results to God.

How have you seen this truth and experienced it in your own life?