

Discussion questions – September 14 – we're in John's gospel – 7:1-13

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 – Who had the most siblings growing up? What do you think it would have been like to have a brother who was the perfect Son of God? Do you think Jesus ever teased his siblings? Did he ever need correction from his parents? Were you your parent's favorite child?!!
6. The story begins with an interesting interchange between Jesus and his brothers. Have you had family members that didn't understand or accept your faith? How did you handle their criticism or opposition? What have you found to be most helpful in dealing with unsaved family? What hasn't worked?
7. How does the fact that Jesus' own brothers did not believe impact you? How does that reenforce what Jesus has been teaching in chapter 6? (it is the Spirit who gives life, the flesh is no help at all) How does this relate to family life and the gospel? Living a godly example? Prayer? Trust in God?
8. We don't want to forget that Jesus told us if the world hated him, it would hate his followers as well. How does this encourage you in the battle? Or does it? Jesus says if you're living like one of my followers the world will hate you. What does that look like in daily life? What does it mean if the world doesn't hate us? How do balance living the Christian life and still being a winsome witness for Christ in the world? Can we do both?
9. You might say the brothers are thinking from a totally worldly perspective. To what extent has the church adopted and utilized the ways of the world in how it operates in its daily affairs? (How about its view of money; what success looks like; leadership philosophy; even in marketing? Can you name some specific ways you think this is happening? Where do we draw the line? Is it always wrong? How do we know when we've crossed over the line?
10. We see again the biblical balance of God's sovereignty and human responsibility. Jesus said the time was not right to go to Jerusalem. God had a predetermined time for him to go. Instead of saying, God is sovereign, he'll protect me from harm, Jesus makes the personal decision to stay back, his personal choice. How does seeing this tension even in the life of our Lord help you balance this truth? (we don't need to explain it or even fully understand it; we do need to accept it and believe both are true)
11. If someone were to say to you, "I believe Jesus was a very good man, but I don't believe he is God." How would you reply?

What we take away... Christ brings clarity in the midst of confusion. Truth does that. He sends us to do the same. Speak the truth. Live the truth.

