Study
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The Gospel of John

Confusion and Conflict

Introduction

In John chapter 7, we are brought face to face with the reality of John's words in chapter 1vs 11 – "He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him." Part of this rejection of Jesus stemmed from the confusion that people felt concerning His works and His words. Once again we are reminded that unless people are born again they can neither see nor enter the kingdom of heaven. But it is also clear both from John's description and from Jesus' own words that for some, confusion had given way to deadly hostility. In the midst of all of this confusion and hostility we have Jesus testifying to the truth and calling upon those who hear to put their trust in Him, whatever the cost.

Study Questions

These questions help you to see clearly what the text is saying. This is a vital first step towards understanding what the section means. The questions should be answered from the text itself.

Read John 7vs1-52. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did Jesus stay away from Judea? What response did this evoke from his brothers? Why did they respond in this way? (John 7vs1-5)

2. What was Jesus' answer to them? (John 7vs6-9) What do you make of verse 10 and of Jesus going 'in secret'?

3. What picture does John 7vs10-52 give of
    a. The public response to Jesus at this time?

    b. The response of the religious leaders?

    c. The reason for the hostility of the Jews?

4. What claims does Jesus make about Himself and His teaching in these verses?

Think it Through

1. What does John 7vs37-39 teach us about the Holy Spirit? How does this fit in with what John the Baptist said about Jesus?