



Many of Jesus' statements about Himself shocked those who heard them. Throughout the New Testament, Jesus claims to have come down from Heaven, to have been sent into the world by God, to be the Savior of the world, to be the source of eternal life, to be the only way to God, to be one with the Father, to be without sin, to have the authority to forgive sins. Only three possible explanations exist for these amazing claims by Jesus. He was a deranged mad man, He was a diabolical deceiver, or He is who He claims to be. C.S. Lewis puts it this way,

A man who was merely a man who said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about Him being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. (Mere Christianity)

In this section, as Jesus arrives at the Feast of Booths and teaches in the temple, we see five reasons He is who He says He is.

¹⁴ 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."

Five Reasons to Believe the Claims of Jesus:

1. His source of knowledge and teaching
2. The assurance that comes with obedience
3. His selflessness, His seeking the glory of the One who sent Him
4. His judgment on those who claim to know the Scriptures, but deny what it says
5. The signs He performed

As noted in the section before this, Jesus had waited to go up to the feast to avoid a premature triumphal entry. Verse 14 tells us Jesus arrived at the temple in the middle of the weeklong feast and began to teach as was customary for rabbis to do.

His Source of Knowledge and Teaching (v. 15-16)

As Jesus taught in the temple, the people were astonished. His teaching was not like what they were used to from the rabbis. They wondered how He could have such knowledge and wisdom having never been to any of the elite rabbinical schools. They were in essence attacking His credentials and His right to teach at all.

It was the custom of the rabbis to quote other older and recognized rabbis. It was important for them to be connected to tradition. To teach what they themselves thought would have been unheard of and would have marked them as false teachers. They argued that since Jesus did not have the proper education and did not quote the rabbis as they did then Jesus' teaching should be disregarded.

Jesus reply went straight to the heart of their objection. "My

teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me." Although

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His teaching was not derived from men as theirs was, it was not His own either. His teaching came directly from God. In John 12:49-50 He says: “⁴⁹ For I did not speak on My own, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to* what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.”

By disagreeing with Jesus, the Jewish leaders showed their teaching was not from God. Since only Jesus has perfect knowledge of the Father, only He can speak directly from Him. The source of Jesus’ knowledge and teaching was from God Himself and is a prime reason why we should believe Him.

The Assurance that Comes with Obedience (v. 17)

During Jesus’ ministry, unbelievers who had just witnessed a sign often asked Him to perform additional signs. He rejected these requests because He knew they came from disbelieving hearts. For those who truly sought the truth revealed by God Jesus promised they would know with assurance that it was from God. Those who were willing to **DO** His will would know that what He said was true.

Jesus’ challenge to the crowd was that they needed to humble themselves before God’s Word (where His will is revealed) to know it and obey it. As a result, they would come to a sure realization of the truth of His teaching. This promise is still true today. Genuine believers will receive confidence through the Holy Spirit both internally through His testimony and externally through events that demonstrate the truth of the gospel.

His Selflessness, His Seeking the Glory of the One Who Sent Him (v. 18)

There are at least two characteristics of every false teacher and deceiver – they speak on their own authority and for their own glory. Jesus, however, was speaking for and **seeking the glory of the One who sent Him**. God describes false teachers (deceivers) as shepherds who feed themselves from the flock rather than taking care of the flock (Ezekiel 34:2-3). Jesus, however, did not come to *be* served, but *to* serve, and to give His life a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28).

His Judgement on Those Who Claim to Know the Scriptures but Deny What It Says (v. 19-20)

Jesus asked the religious leaders a rhetorical question – “Did not Moses give you the Law?” Their obvious answer would be yes. They had the Law. They prided themselves on knowing and following the Law. Yet, none of them fulfilled it. They couldn’t. The Law was not given as a means of earning salvation by obeying it perfectly. It was given to show our sinfulness and our need for a Savior.

Jesus’ question “why do you seek to kill me” was a judgment on them. If they really knew the Law they would see their sin and recognize Him as the One the Law pointed to as the Messiah, as the Savior who could deliver them from the curse of sin.

The Signs He Performed (v. 21-23)

Jesus referred back to a previous miracle (John 5:2-9) when He had healed a sick man at the pool of Bethesda. He had done the healing on the Sabbath, so they had accused Him of doing work on the Sabbath, and therefore, breaking the Law.

Jesus made the case that even they “broke” the Law by performing circumcision (also commanded by the Law) on the Sabbath. They prioritized obeying the Law by performing circumcision on the Sabbath over “working” on the Sabbath (and rightfully so). His point was that it was more important He heal the man on the Sabbath rather than following their ridiculous understanding of not “working” on the Sabbath. His healing of the man was real (they did not deny that) and was not a violation of the Law. The sign (healing) authenticated who He was and what He taught.



Bible Studies:

7:00 am Tuesdays: Bible Study – Governor’s Large Conference Room – Open to All: Legislators, Constitutional Officers, Lobbyists, Staff

8:00 pm Tuesdays: Legislator Only Bible Study – Perkins

Zoom: Want to attend, but concerned about Covid-19? Talk to me about a Zoom link.

