Make Up Your Mind April 28, 2019

*John 7:19-36 Series: The Saviour who Frees You*

A long habit of not thinking a thing wrong gives it a superficial appearance of being right. Time makes more converts than reason. - Thomas Paine

Intro: The challenge of making a judgment in a judge-not world.

1. Make up your mind because self-justification is self-delusion.
2. We can use the Bible to justify ourselves.

v. 19 *Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?*

v. 17 *If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from …*

1. We can use the Bible hypocritically.

v. 21 *I did one work, and you all marvel at it.*

v. 22 *you circumcise a man on the Sabbath*

v. 23 *are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well?*

1. Jesus still demands that we make a judgment call.

Matthew 7:1 *Judge not, that you be not judged.*

v. 24 *Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.*

* What do you think of Thomas Paine’s statement that, “Time makes more converts than reason?” Why?
* What are some signs that you’re using the Bible hypocritically or for self-justification? How can we avoid using the Bible like that?
* Why is Matthew 7:1 so much more popular than John 7:24 in our society today?
1. Make up your mind because ignorance isn’t bliss.
2. It’s dangerous to make snap judgments about eternal realities.

v. 20 *The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?”*

1. It’s dangerous to make judgments based on others’ opinion.

v. 26 *And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ?*

1. It’s dangerous to make judgments based on partial information.

v. 27 *But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from.*

v. 28 *You know me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know.*

* When are you tempted to make snap judgments about important issues? How can you avoid that?
* What’s wrong with just adopting the opinions and beliefs of the religious experts and authorities around you?
* Jesus seems to link not knowing God with an inability to rightly evaluate Jesus’ claims. Why is a vital personal relationship with God critical to good decision making?
1. Make up your mind because the stakes are high.
2. We think we’re in control but we’re not.

v. 30 *So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.*

v. 33 *I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me.*

1. Rejecting God’s Saviour leaves us searching for help that won’t come.

v. 34 *You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come.*

Hosea 5:6 *With their flocks and herds they shall go to seek the LORD, but they will not find him; he has withdrawn from them.*

John 12:35 *So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you.”*

1. There’s more at stake in rejecting Jesus than we want to admit.

v. 34 *Where I am you cannot come.*

v. 36 *What does he mean by saying, ‘You will seek me and you will not find me,’ and, ‘Where I am you cannot come’?*

* According to v. 30, why were the authorities not able to lay a hand on Jesus? What does that mean?
* What’s the problem with thinking, “I’ll make a decision about Jesus later?”
* What was Jesus warning in John 12:35?
* Where do you most need prayer in applying this passage to your life?

Study ahead: In two weeks we’ll study Psalm 15.

Notes