

John 7:45-53

John 7:45-46 – *“(45) Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? (46) The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.”*

A. The officers were told to take Jesus (**John 7:32**).

1. The false religious leaders of the Jews were later of the same mindset toward the Apostles (**Acts 5:12-42**).
2. As God's people, we must be aware that civil law can often be abused to persecute us (**Matthew 10:16-18, Luke 21:12, Acts 6:9-15, Acts 16:16-24, and Revelation 2:10**).

B. The officer's reason for not taking Jesus was that they had never heard a man speak like Jesus had (**Matthew 7:28-29**).

1. Jesus was a different teacher in that He was deity (**Matthew 1:23 and Romans 9:5**) and knew all things (**John 2:24-25, John 16:28-30, John 18:4, John 21:17, and Acts 15:18**).
2. Jesus was a different teacher in that He had all authority (**Matthew 17:1-5, Matthew 28:18, Luke 10:22, John 13:3, Romans 14:9, and Philippians 2:9-11**).
3. Jesus was a different teacher in that He taught the truth (**John 1:14, John 1:17, John 14:6, and Romans 15:8**), which was something that had been forsaken by the majority of the Jews (**John 8:32-37, John 8:43, and John 8:45-47**).
4. Their amazement at the teaching of our Lord shows a real prophet had not been around these folks (**Jeremiah 23:28-29 and Micah 3:8**).

John 7:47-49 – *“(47) Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived? (48) Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him? (49) But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed.”*

A. The Pharisees charged the officers of being deceived by Jesus because they ignorantly thought Jesus was a deceiver (**Matthew 27:62-63**).

1. They've seen evidence that Jesus was the Christ (**John 14:10-11**), but they ignored the evidence (**John 10:25 and John 12:37**).
2. Before the death of our Lord they accused Him of not giving tribute to Caesar (**Luke 23:2**), which was a false charge (**Matthew 22:17-22**).
3. Those in error often slander those who teach the truth (**Matthew 5:11, Romans 3:8, II Corinthians 6:4-8, and I Peter 3:16-17**).

B. The Pharisees used themselves as the standard with their premise being if they had not believed on Jesus no one else should have either (**Matthew 23:13-15**).

1. They think everyone who believed in Jesus did not know the law because they thought their way was the right way (**Proverbs 16:2, Proverbs 20:6, Proverbs 30:12, Luke 18:11-14, Galatians 6:3, and James 1:18-25**).
 - a. We must all examine ourselves (**II Corinthians 13:5**).

b. Our examination must be conducted using the word of God rather than our own conclusions (**Luke 6:46, John 14:23-24, I John 5:2-3, and II John 9**).

2. The Pharisees were a standard, but not a good one (**Matthew 5:20**).

3. The self-proclaimed “all knowing” people are the ones who cannot see the truth (**Matthew 11:25, I Corinthians 1:20-28, and I Corinthians 3:18**).

John 7:50-53 – *“(50) Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,) (51) Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth? (52) They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet. (53) And every man went unto his own house.”*

A. Nicodemus argued from their law, which the Jews only chose to look at when they thought the law was in their favor (**Luke 6:1-12 and John 19:6-7**).

1. Nicodemus was right in his argument from the Law of Moses (**Deuteronomy 1:17 and Deuteronomy 17:8-11**).

2. Their judgment of Jesus was a folly and shame unto them (**Proverbs 18:13**).

B. Since Nicodemus offered a partial defense for Christ; they charged him as being a Galilean. This is based on the illogical conclusion that any follower of Jesus must be of Galilee (cf. **Mark 14:70 and Acts 24:5**).

1. Nicodemus would have faced consequences for standing with our Lord (**John 12:42-43**).

2. Nicodemus had struggled with his thoughts concerning Christ (**John 19:38-42**) since coming to Jesus by night (**John 3:1ff.**)

3. Again, as we discussed in **John 7:41**, they falsely concluded Jesus could not be a prophet because He came from Galilee.

a. Some doubted whether Christ should come out of Galilee (**John 1:45-46 and John 7:52**), which is the region the city of Nazareth was located (**Luke 1:26-32**). In so doing, they are challenging what the prophets said (**Matthew 2:23**).

b. They misunderstood that Jesus had lived in Nazareth (**Luke 4:16**), but was born in Bethlehem (**Matthew 2:1**).

4. They could not conclude anything, other than it was time to go home (**Psalms 33:10**).