The Reality of Jesus

Brent Moody · John 7:37–52

INTRODUCTION

- The first is the effect of the I am statements that Jesus makes.
- There's this frequent mention, second of all, of division among the people. They are constantly divided.
- And then the third of these is about the dishonest rejection of Jesus by the religious leaders.

1 There Was a Division Among the People

John 7:37–52; John 7:12–13; John 7:26–27

- Anyone who thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.
- So there was a division among the people over him.
- The officers answered, No one ever spoke like this man.

2 I Am: There's Nothing in Between

John 6:66; John 9:5

- These statements about division are very connected to the I am statements. And that's significant because it's Jesus claiming who he is, most powerfully, that he is deity.
- I am the light of the world. If you don't walk with the light, you're in darkness.
- We have to understand there's nothing in between. The claims of Jesus are that strong. They are that bold.
- It's either faith or it's rejection.

3 Truth Draws a Line

John 9:16; John 10:19–21

- It's amazing that a guy can actually be healing people of their diseases and be doing all sorts of good things to help people, and yet they still find a way to criticize him.
- Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?
- You're denying me, you're rejecting me, but it's not because of what I'm doing, it's because you're hard of heart.
- And so the ultimate reality is that truth draws a line. And you fall on one side or the other.

4 His Rejection Is Not on Sincere Grounds

John 5:16; John 7:45–52

- What John's trying to help us see about Jesus is that his rejection is not on sincere grounds.

- Prejudice, due to stubborn pride, envy, hypocrisy, jealousy. These are actually the reasons why Jesus is being rejected.
- They are not confused about Jesus and what he's doing. They simply don't want to do it.
- Have you also been deceived? No, not interested. They're not interested in what he said.

5 We Know This Man Is a Sinner

John 9:22; John 9:24–30; John 11:47–48

- They have already agreed that anyone who confesses Jesus is going to be put out of the synagogue.
- One thing I do know that though I was blind, now I see.
- You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.
- It's about them. It's not about reality. It's not about the truth.

6 Fear, Self-Seeking and Lack of Knowledge

John 7:41–42

- They seek their own self glory instead of the glory that is from above.
- This is not intellectual pursuit. This is not lack of evidence. They know.
- If I'm content to not search out the answers, that really means I've just decided to reject him.
- There's enough evidence out there to learn what we need to learn about Jesus to build faith in who he is.

THE CHALLENGE

What do you believe? It's one or the other. And based on that belief, what will you do?

MY NOTES