

TITLE AND NUMBER: 215 Learning from Jesus

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES: John 7:10-15



However, after his brothers had left for the Feast, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. Now at the Feast the Jews were watching for him and asking, 'Where is that man?' Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, 'He is a good man.' Others replied, 'No, he deceives the people.' But no-one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the Jews. Not until halfway through the Feast did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. The Jews were amazed and asked, 'How did this man get such learning without having studied?'

LOOKING FURTHER: Luke 2:41-52; John 7:16-18

What does the Bible passage tell us?

Jesus had no desire to be a celebrity; He just wanted to do His Father's will. He therefore didn't go to the Feast of Tabernacles with His disciples when He knew that people would be looking for Him. Instead, he went later and in secret.

Eventually, half-way through the Feast, He went to the temple and began to teach. The Jews were amazed at how He could be so learned without having studied. You may remember that when Jesus was 12 years old, He went to Jerusalem with His parents for the Passover Festival. When He stayed behind to talk to the elders, even then they were amazed at His understanding.

Some people seem to have an instinctive knowledge about things which they haven't actually been taught. Maybe they are very observant and retain information easily; maybe this knowledge is in their genes. Jesus says that His teaching is not His own but comes from God and, when we do God's will, we can recognise this (v.16-17). He says we should live not seeking our own honour but that of our Heavenly Father. Then we will be people of truth (v.18).

This does not mean that we should not try our best to be successful. But, it does mean that we should look at our motives for what we do. Are we just trying to be a celebrity for its own sake or are we aiming to do the best we can for everyone's sake, according to God's will?

Reflection

- Think of those celebrities whom you admire. Do you admire them because they are good at what they do or just because they are celebrities? Which is the right way?
- While you are in prison, why not take the opportunity to learn something new which could be of benefit both to you and to others when you leave. It could be learning how to read, improving your maths, doing an Open University course or it could be skill training for future employment.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



LEARN

Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

