REFLECTION Questions

JOHN 7:14-24

1. We must look at Jesus' teaching with right judgment (John 7:14-19a)
   - The people were amazed that Jesus taught with authority and depth without formal rabbinic training. In what ways do you evaluate teachers or spiritual voices today—by credentials, popularity, style, or by whether their words align with God's will and seek His glory rather than their own?
   - Jesus says, "Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own" (v. 17). How does a genuine willingness to obey God affect your ability to discern truth? Where might a reluctance to obey be clouding your judgment of Jesus' words?
   - Jesus contrasts those who speak for personal glory with the one who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him. When you listen to (or share) biblical teaching, are you more concerned with how it makes you feel, look, or succeed, or with whether it truly honors God?
   - Jesus points out the inconsistency of those who claim to uphold the Law of Moses while plotting to kill Him. In what areas of your life might you be selectively applying God's Word—holding others to a standard you yourself resist?
2. We must look at Jesus' works with right judgment (John 7:19b-24)
   - The crowd reacts defensively ("You are demon-possessed… Who is trying to kill you?"). How do people today (including yourself) sometimes dismiss or explain away Jesus' claims and works when they confront comfortable assumptions or personal sin?
   - Jesus defends His Sabbath healing by pointing to the accepted practice of circumcision on the Sabbath. What "traditions," preferences, or surface-level standards do you sometimes use to judge the work of God in others or in the church, instead of looking at the deeper purpose and fruit?
   - Jesus' central command is: "Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly" (v. 24). Where in your life—relationships, ministry, culture, or personal decisions—are you most tempted to judge by outward appearances rather than by God's standards of truth and righteousness?
   - Right judgment requires seeing both the teaching and the works of Jesus in light of who sent Him. How does recognizing Jesus as the One who seeks the Father's glory (rather than His own) change the way you evaluate His claims on your life?

In light of this passage, where do you most need the Holy Spirit's help to stop judging by appearances and to practice right judgment toward Jesus' teaching and works? Ask Him to give you a heart that is willing to do God's will so that you may clearly discern the truth.