

Bible Study 4 – Extended Conversations

1. Background.

The Gospel of John includes many extended conversations and teachings of Jesus (eg 3:1-21, 4:1-38, 5:16-47, 6:25-59, 8:12-58, 10:1-42 and chapters 13-17). Clearly, we can't study (or even read all of these in the hour we have for this study) so we will simply focus on 7:14-44.

Rather than including parables as the other Gospels do, John uses these conversations. In these conversations Jesus teaches – this teaching is not always understood or well received. Were the parables in the other Gospels always understood?

Is this the case in 7:14-44? If so where and how? Are there any misunderstandings? Again, if so where and what is misunderstood? Have we discussed some of these before?

2. Focus on verses 14-24

To what miracle is Jesus referring in verse 21 (hint – when did Jesus go up to Jerusalem before this)? Look at these verses again in the context of that (and the teaching that follows that miracle)– does that help some of what Jesus says in these verses – why or why not? What links can you find between these events?

Debate over the sabbath appears in all the Gospels (Matt 12:1-14, Mark 3:1-6, Luke 6:1-11) why is this so important – what does Jesus have to say about it? What does this say to us today?

3. Focus on verses 25-36

Verse 30 – his hour had not yet come, does this phrase or something very similar appear elsewhere in John? What happens when his hour had come (13:1)?

Verse 31 – signs are very important in John – (2:2:1-11, 4:46-54, 5:1-15, 6:5-15, 6:16-24, 9:1-7, 11:1-45). What do these signs point towards? Did Jesus perform more signs than these? If so what were they? Why do you think that the Jews may have not accepted these signs?

What does Jesus mean in his statements in verses 33 and 34? Is that the same way that the Jews tried to understand the statements? If so how if not why not?

4. Focus on verses 37-44

Both here and in 4:13-15 Jesus is promising this living water. Note the explanation in verse 39 here – does that make it clearer?

Read 14:15-17,25,26, 15:26,27, 16-7-15.

How is the work of the Spirit related to the work of Christ?

These additional references to the Holy Spirit come from the last long conversation – what aside from the length was different about the conversation in chapters 13-17?

How is the reaction of the Jews here different from that of the Samaritan woman?

The Gospel of John shows a different aspect of the teaching of Jesus. Each part of Jesus teaching relates to his other teachings – they all need to be seen in context and building on each other.

Questions to: Vicar Stephen – either through Sunday drive-through, by phone 0439 346 972 or email stephen_noblett@hotmail.com