



**SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe**

**SPEAKER: NATE OPFER**

**Monday, November 14, 2022**

**Scripture: John 7:14-18**

**TITLE: Teaching for God's Glory**

Welcome to Win the Day. I'm Nate, your coach, filling in for Pastor Nat and today we're going to talk about teaching for God's glory.

We are continuing in the Gospel of John 7:14-18, which reads:

About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?" So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood."

It was the end of the harvest season and in Jerusalem the weeklong Feast of Booths was going on, but it says Jesus went up about halfway through the festival and began to teach in the temple courtyard. Jesus went up to Jerusalem in secret, for He did not want to draw unwanted attention to Himself.

The crowds were all abuzz about this Miracle Worker and we know the Pharisees were keeping an eye out for Him. The last time Jesus was in Jerusalem, He healed a paralyzed man on the Sabbath and made a divine claim to be equal to God. So, they were looking to arrest Him, while others believed in Him.

But Jesus made His way to the temple courtyard, sat in an open spot, and began to teach. As He taught, a crowd gathered around Him and it says they *marveled* at His teaching because He didn't look like an educated man or one of the Rabbis.

The rabbis would find a spot to teach and in their teaching they would quote other rabbis for authority. This would give them credibility and also keep them in line with tradition. Their authority came from men.

So they began to wonder, from what authority did Jesus get this amazing teaching? Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from Him who sent me." Jesus is making more divine claims. Jesus' authority came from God. Therefore, Jesus gives the glory to God.

Now, for you or I it may be tempting when we hear family, friends, or congregation congratulate you on what you've taught and explained to them by thinking that you're great, that you're intelligent and charismatic. That thought can creep in and affect your next lesson, or when you sit down to enlighten or instruct someone in the ways of the Lord, to the point that you are giving them your own words instead of going back to the Bible. Soon, you are always seeking your own personal glory instead of glorifying God.

We also may be tempted to fall for soothing words for our itching ears. As a follower of Christ, you should know whether teaching comes from God or man. To know that, you must accurately know the Word. When you hear someone teach, watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine you have been taught.

These are the warnings that Jesus gives here.

You may be thinking, "But I'm not a pastor, teacher, or leader. I don't need to worry about speaking for my own personal glory!"

I think you should reconsider.

Our Lord tells us to go into the world and make disciples, *teaching* them to obey all that He has commanded us. Whether teaching your child or grandchild, your neighbor, or whoever it may be, we are teaching and encouraging each other with the Word of God.

We have a high calling to teach the truth to the glory of God and to know and revere the Word of God, just like our Lord.

Jesus sought the glory of the One who sent Him. Since God sent Him, and He and the Father are one, then Jesus is a man of truth, and there is nothing false about Him. He is perfect, and without sin. He is faithful, obedient, and wise. He is the way, the truth, and the life. Focus on Him, and in everything you do, (especially teaching), do it to the glory of God.