

## MIND GAMES

John 7:45-52

Introduction:

### 1. The Bewildered Mind – the officers / guards

A) Who are these officers?

> Levites that have religious training who are under the authority of the chief priests and Pharisees

B) Why haven't they fulfilled their duties and brought Jesus in?

> God is in control, not the religious leaders (John 7:43-44)

> Their exposure to Jesus and His teaching has left them bewildered (John 7:46)

Jesus speaks in a way unlike any / every other man – even the chief priests and Pharisees (John 1:1-3, 14; John 7:15-18, 28-30)

> There is something about the Word of God that is unlike any other word (Heb 4:12-13)

C) Why are these officers bewildered by Jesus?

> The Sanhedrin were supposedly authorized to speak for God and with the authority of God

And now they hear Jesus – a man who speaks like no other man

### 2. The Fair Mind – Nicodemus

A) John wants us to know some things about this man Nicodemus

> Nicodemus had already had an audience with Jesus (John 7:50a; John 3:1-7)

> Apparently Nicodemus was not born again (John 7:50b)

> Significance? Nicodemus is fair minded about hearing Jesus, but doesn't believe in Him - yet (John 19:38)

B) Nicodemus, as a member of the religious leaders, suggests they follow standard protocol (John 7:51)

> There is no explicit Old Testament text that makes the point Nicodemus raises, but justice was inherent in the law (Deut. 1:16; 17:2-5; 19:15-19)

> Nicodemus wants to be fair and follow protocol which demands that before Jesus is condemned, the religious leaders must do their homework

### 3. The Closed Mind – the Sanhedrin

#### A) Notice their intentions toward Jesus

- > They have already decided Jesus is a dangerous threat (John 5:16-18; 7:1)
- > They want to shut Jesus up because others are listening to Him (John 7:32, 45)

#### B) Their response to the officers (John 7:47)

- > Have you also been deceived?
- > Have any of the rulers or Pharisees believed in Him? (John 7:48)
- > This “crowd” that does not know the law is accursed (John 7:49)

#### C) The state of their mind is revealed in Their response to Nicodemus

- > Are you also from Galilee?
- > The irony of this situation

The Sanhedrin speaks in derogatory ways about the crowds who do not know the law even as they seek to shut Nicodemus up so that they can ignore the Law

- > The arrogance of the Sanhedrin

Search and look, no prophet has come from Galilee? (John 7:52)

How about Jonah (2 Kings 17:1) and Nahum (Nahum 1:1)

Do they know where Jesus was born? Where He came from?

#### D) A closed mind is a dangerous thing

- > It arrogantly refuses to consider any data that conflicts with what it wants to believe

They refuse to listen to Jesus or consider the signs / miracles

- > It belittles those who propose truths that conflict with their beliefs so they can disregard them
- > It refuses to change – in the end they will kill Jesus