

John 7:14–24 – “Grace, Truth, and Righteous Judgment”

Where religious noise drowns out grace, Jesus steps in with truth that exposes legalistic hypocrisy, and calls us to judge righteously—according to God’s Word, not man’s standards.

The Biblical World – Understanding the Context:

At the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus quietly enters the temple halfway through the celebration and begins teaching. The crowds are stunned—He has no formal education, yet speaks with unmatched authority. Religious leaders, proud of their knowledge and appearance, are exposed. Jesus shows that true doctrine doesn’t come from credentials but from God. He confronts hypocrisy—those who brag about Moses but want to kill Him—and He calls for righteous judgment, not surface-level religion. In a city full of debate and deception, Jesus offers the clarity of God’s voice.

Passage Outline

- **I. Jesus Taught God’s Doctrine, Not Man’s (vv. 14–17)**
 - **II. Legalism Seeks Its Own Glory and Rejects Christ (vv. 18–20)**
 - **III. Righteous Judgment Sees Grace, Not Appearances (vv. 21–24)**
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Passage Notes

I. Jesus Taught God’s Doctrine, Not Man’s (vv. 14–17)

Jesus didn’t teach to impress—He taught to reveal God. His doctrine came from the Father, not tradition. Anyone willing to do God’s will would recognize the truth. Belief—not schooling—unlocks spiritual understanding.

II. Legalism Seeks Its Own Glory and Rejects Christ (vv. 18–20)

The religious leaders taught for personal recognition, not for God’s glory. They boasted about the Law but broke it by plotting to kill Jesus. Their outward righteousness was exposed as hollow. Legalism always resists grace.

III. Righteous Judgment Sees Grace, Not Appearances (vv. 21–24)

Jesus reminded them of His healing on the Sabbath—a work of mercy they condemned. Yet they allowed circumcision on the Sabbath to keep the law. Their judgment was based on tradition, not truth. Jesus calls for righteous judgment—one that looks beneath the surface to see grace and truth.

The Modern World – Relevance Today:

In today’s world, performance and image often replace truth. Many seek religious recognition while missing God’s heart. But God’s Word still exposes the noise. It still offers grace. And it still calls us to believe.

The World of the Congregation – Applying This Passage Today:

Some believers judge by appearance—spiritual style, credentials, or tradition—rather than listening to God’s Word. But grace reminds us that truth doesn’t need man’s approval. It just needs believing hearts.

What This Means for Us

- **God’s Word exposes religious noise and calls us back to grace.**
 - *Are you trusting God’s truth—or man’s approval?*
→ Rely on Scripture. Let grace define your doctrine.

- **Legalism always seeks praise for itself—never glory for God.**
 - *Where have you been performing instead of believing?*
→ Rest in grace. Reject the checklist.

- **Righteous judgment sees with mercy, not appearances.**
 - *Have you judged others—or yourself—by the outside?*
→ Ask God to help you see through the lens of grace.