

“He is Different”

John 7:40-53

Human beings across the world are very similar. Oh, I know we have different skin tones, different shapes of faces and eyes, different hair texture and color. But really, we’re not that much different from each other. Paul said in Acts 17:6; “*And He [that’s God] has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings...*” Did you catch that? All peoples are made from one blood or one race – the human race. We are all made in the image of God.

Hello friend, I’m J. Mark Horst, your host and this program is *Hope for Today*. It is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel media ministry. Each week the Bible teaching broadcasts of *Heralds of Hope* circle the globe in English and 21 other major languages. Thousands are tuning in each week to receive spiritual nourishment and blessing.

If you’re tuning in for the first time today, we are currently being led through the Gospel of John by the teaching of the late, Dr. J. Otis Yoder. He was the founder, first president, and Bible teacher for *Hope for Today*. He went home to be with the Lord in the year 2003.

But his method of teaching the Bible was such that it never goes out of date. And so, we are rebroadcasting his teaching from John’s Gospel. We are confident that, if you tune in each week, you will be blessed by the clear, simple presentation of biblical truth.

In just a few moments, Dr. Yoder will come to share his teaching about Jesus. It’s titled, “He is Different.” But before he does that, let’s pray.

We are alike in many ways: we get hungry; we get tired; we get thirsty. We have many needs that are alike: food, clothing, shelter. Of course, these are physical needs. But in the spiritual area we are also all alike. The Bible tells us in Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.’

My friend, that Scripture makes no exception. We are alike. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” In all human history only One lived who is different from us and yet like us. He lived here among men. They saw Him as a man and yet He was different. He is Jesus the Messiah.

What evidence do we have that HE IS DIFFERENT? We find the evidence in this Scripture: John 7:40-53.

- 40 *Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, of a truth this is the Prophet.*
- 41 *Others said, this is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee?*
- 42 *Hath not the scripture said That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?*
- 43 *So, there was a division among the people because of him.*
- 44 *And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.*
- 45 *Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, why have ye not brought him?*
- 46 *The officers answered, never man spoke like this man.*
- 47 *Then answered them the Pharisees, are ye also deceived?*
- 48 *Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?*
- 49 *But this people who know not the law are cursed.*
- 50 *Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,)*
- 51 *Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?*
- 52 *They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee arises no prophet.*
- 53 *And every man went unto his own house.*

From this text we learn that the presence of Jesus started several MOVEMENTS in which we see the evidence that He is different.

For example, He Made a Division.

They wondered who He was. Some said, “He is the prophet.” By that they were referring to the quotation from Exodus where Moses said God was going to send them a prophet. In fact God said it to Moses, that He was going to raise up from among them a prophet like Moses. So they said, “He is the prophet.”

Then others said, “He is the Christ.” The word Christ means Messiah. They were expecting Him, so some said, “This is the Messiah.” But they wondered at where He came from. They knew He came from Nazareth in the Galilee and there was no record of any great prophet coming from

Galilee. They had it right. They said the prophets said that the Messiah was to come from Bethlehem, David's town, and from David's seed.

Well, He was born in Bethlehem. In the genealogies in the Bible His family line goes back to David. The Bible says that because of this there was a division. He made a division. Oh, I find people today who are divided on who Jesus is. Is He the prophet? Is He the Messiah? Who is He? He made a division.

Jesus' claims started a second movement: He Created a Discussion.

Some said, "Let's arrest him; let's take him." But they were unsure what to do. Now the officers who had been sent to take Him came back without Him. They had not arrested Him. When they were asked why they hadn't brought Him, they answered, "Nobody ever spoke like this man."

So, they had a discussion. They talked it over. The Pharisees said, "Are you also deceived?" It was only the common people who believed in Him. "The rulers and the Pharisees don't believe in Him, do they?" The common people, though unlearned, were trusting in Jesus. So, they had a discussion; some wanted to arrest Him; others wanted to investigate.

I have found people today who can talk about Him without making any careful investigation as to who He really is. A good bit of discussion goes on around Him as to who He is, but I find that some never make up their minds. They are just there talking about Him. He can create a discussion. Yes, the subject of Jesus, who He is, can create a rather warm discussion.

But I want you to notice in that last movement He Forced a Decision.

Nicodemus, one of the Pharisees who had come to Jesus by night, made a very interesting statement. He said, "Does our law judge a man before it hears him?" Hold your sentence: a man is innocent until proved guilty; pass no judgment on Him until you have heard his case. But He was forcing a decision. He challenged them to give some consideration to all the facts; to weigh everything before they rendered a decision, to hear Him themselves. Don't just stand there; arrange for the Man to speak for Himself.

Oh, that is so important today, my friend. Many people read what others have said about Him, but they never listen to Him. I have found people who judge without the facts. But any fair-minded person will weigh all the facts; he will examine all the evidence before he makes a decision. But a decision he will have to make; he must make it.

Jesus is different because He will make a division, He will create a discussion, He will force a decision. It is today just like it was then. No one can take His place. You are brought face to face with Him. You must make your decision yourself. Are you ready to do that?

Thank you, Dr. Yoder for showing us from this portion of Holy Scripture how Jesus is different from we humans. Just like in our Scripture text, people today are still divided in their opinions about who Jesus is. Many people try to deny His existence. But I wonder, if Jesus really didn't exist, why would they spend so much time and energy trying to prove He didn't exist? That doesn't make any sense!

And then there are others who know from experience that Jesus does exist. They know because He has transformed their hearts and lives. I know, because He did that for me, and He wants to do it for you, too, my friend. But only you can make that decision. No one else can make it for you.

Now, were you blessed by this teaching by Dr. Yoder? If so, you can request an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, just request it by its title, "He is Different."

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. That email address again is, m-a-i-l@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, "He is Different." I'd be happy to send one to you.

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as we continue our study in John's Gospel. And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.