



## Lesson 41 – Among Snares

Based on John 7:16-36, 40-53; John 8:1-11.

1) What time of year was it when our lesson begins today?

**John 7:2** Now the Jews' feast of \_\_\_\_\_ was at hand.

2) What did Jesus do when He got there?

**John 7:14** Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the \_\_\_\_\_, and taught.

3) What was stirring in the crowd?

**John 7:25-26** Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to \_\_\_\_\_? But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very \_\_\_\_\_?

All the while Jesus was at Jerusalem during the feast He was shadowed by spies. Day after day new schemes to silence Him were tried. The priests and rulers were watching to entrap Him. They were planning to stop Him by violence. But this was not all. They wanted to humble this Galilean rabbi before the people.

4) What was everyone saying about Him?

**John 7:15** And the Jews marvelled, saying, How \_\_\_\_\_ this man letters, having never learned?

5) What did Jesus reply?

**John 7:16-17** Jesus answered them, and said, My \_\_\_\_\_ is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of \_\_\_\_\_.

The question of these cavilers Jesus met, not by answering the cavil, but by opening up truth vital to the salvation of the soul. The perception and appreciation of truth, He said, depends less upon the mind than upon the heart. Truth must be received into the soul; it claims the homage of the will. If truth could be submitted to the reason alone, pride would be no hindrance in the way of its reception. But it is to be received through the work of grace in the heart; and its reception depends upon the renunciation of every sin that the Spirit of God reveals.

6) What test did Jesus give to see where what you believe comes from?

**John 7:18** He that speaketh of himself seeketh his \_\_\_\_\_ glory: but he that seeketh \_\_\_\_\_ glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

Christ was seeking the glory of God. He spoke the words of God. This was the evidence of His authority as a teacher of the truth.

7) What did Jesus ask when He looked into their hearts?

**John 7:19** Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you \_\_\_\_\_ the law? Why go ye about to kill me?

Jesus gave the rabbis an evidence of His divinity by showing that He read their hearts. Ever since the healing at Bethesda they had been plotting His death. Thus, they were themselves breaking the law which they professed to be defending.



8) How did Jesus explain that He in fact did nothing wrong?

**John 7:23-24** If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit on the sabbath day? Judge not according to the \_\_\_\_\_, but judge righteous judgment.

He went on to show that His work of healing at Bethesda was in harmony with the Sabbath law, and that it was justified by the interpretation which the Jews themselves put upon the law.

Jesus was in a mixed crowd, some wanted Him dead, others had no clue of the Pharisees and Sadducees plans.

9) What did some in the crowd question?

**John 7:25-27** Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill? But, lo, he speaketh \_\_\_\_\_, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very \_\_\_\_\_? Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is.

It was generally believed that Christ would be born at Bethlehem, but that after a time He would disappear, and at His second appearance none would know whence He came. There were not a few who held that the Messiah would have no natural relationship to humanity.

10) Jesus responded:

**John 7:28-29** Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both \_\_\_\_\_ me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye \_\_\_\_\_ not. But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.

11) What did they do when they heard that?

**John 7:30** Then they sought to take him: but no man laid \_\_\_\_\_ on him, because his hour was not yet come.

The hearers could not but understand Christ's words. Clearly, they were a repetition of the claim He had made in the presence of the Sanhedrin many months before, when He declared Himself the Son of God. As the rulers then tried to compass His death, so now they sought to take Him; but they were prevented by an unseen power, which put a limit to their rage.

12) Did Jesus' detractors give up?

**John 7:31-32** And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done? The Pharisees \_\_\_\_\_ that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to \_\_\_\_\_ him.

13) What did Jesus add to this?

**John 7:33-34** Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I \_\_\_\_\_ you, and then I go unto him that sent me. Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye \_\_\_\_\_ come.

14) What did the rabbis sneer back?

**John 7:35-36** Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the \_\_\_\_\_, and teach the Gentiles? What manner of saying is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, \_\_\_\_\_ ye cannot come?



15) Paul reminded us that a prophecy of Isaiah was being fulfilled here, what was it?

**Romans 10:20-21** But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made \_\_\_\_\_ unto them that asked not after me. But to Israel he saith, All day long I have \_\_\_\_\_ forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

Little did these cavilers dream that in their mocking words they were picturing the mission of the Christ!

God does not compel men to give up their unbelief. Before them are light and darkness, truth and error. It is for them to decide which they will accept. The human mind is endowed with power to discriminate between right and wrong. God designs that men shall not decide from impulse, but from weight of evidence, carefully comparing scripture with scripture.

16) On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles that year, they tried again to arrest Him, what happened?

**John 7:44:46** And some of them would have taken him; but \_\_\_\_\_ laid hands on him. Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? The officers answered, Never man \_\_\_\_\_ like this man.

Hardened as were their hearts, they were melted by His words. While He was speaking in the temple court, they had lingered near, to catch something that might be turned against Him. But as they listened, the purpose for which they had been sent was forgotten. They stood as men entranced. Christ revealed Himself to their souls. They saw that which priests and rulers would not see, humanity flooded with the glory of divinity.

17) Were The priests happy with that?

**John 7:47-49** Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also \_\_\_\_\_? Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him? But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed.

Again, the priests and rulers proceeded to lay plans for arresting Jesus. It was urged that if He were longer left at liberty, He would draw the people away from the established leaders, and the only safe course was to silence Him without delay.

18) In the full tide of their discussion, they were suddenly checked. Who popped in a question?

**John 7:50-51** \_\_\_\_\_ saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,) Doth our law judge any man, before it \_\_\_\_\_ him, and know what he doeth?

The words of Nicodemus came home to their consciences. They could not condemn a man unheard. But it was not for this reason alone that the haughty rulers remained silent, gazing at him who had dared to speak in favor of justice. They were startled and chagrined that one of their own number had been so far impressed by the character of Jesus as to speak a word in His defense.

19) Recovering from their astonishment, how did they address Nicodemus?

**John 7:52** They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of \_\_\_\_\_? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.



20) What was the result of that?

**John 7:53** And every man went unto his \_\_\_\_\_.

21) What happened the next day at the Temple?

**John 8:2-3** And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and \_\_\_\_\_ them. And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in \_\_\_\_\_; and when they had set her in the midst,

He was soon interrupted. A group of Pharisees and scribes approached Him, dragging with them a terror-stricken woman, whom with hard, eager voices they accused of having violated the seventh commandment.

22) What did they ask Him?

**John 8:4-5** They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very \_\_\_\_\_.

Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest \_\_\_\_\_?

Should He acquit the woman, He might be charged with despising the law of Moses. Should He declare her worthy of death, He could be accused to the Romans as one who was assuming authority that belonged only to them.

Jesus looked for a moment upon the scene, the trembling victim in her shame, the hard-faced dignitaries, devoid of even human pity. His spirit of stainless purity shrank from the spectacle. Well, He knew for what purpose this case had been brought to Him. He read the heart and knew the character and life history of everyone in His presence.

23) What did Jesus do?

**John 8:6-7** This they said, tempting him, that they might have to \_\_\_\_\_ him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without \_\_\_\_\_ among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

Impatient at His delay and apparent indifference, the accusers drew nearer, urging the matter upon His attention. But as their eyes, following those of Jesus, fell upon the pavement at His feet, their countenances changed. There, traced before them, were the guilty secrets of their own lives.

24) What did they do?

**John 8:9** And they which heard it, being convicted by their own \_\_\_\_\_, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

25) What did Jesus say to the fearful woman?

**John 8:10-11** When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine \_\_\_\_\_? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I \_\_\_\_\_ thee: go, and sin no more.

This was to her the beginning of a new life, a life of purity and peace, devoted to the service of God. In the uplifting of this fallen soul, Jesus performed a greater miracle than in healing the most grievous physical disease; He cured the spiritual malady which is unto death everlasting. This penitent woman became one of His most steadfast followers. With self-sacrificing love and devotion she repaid His forgiving mercy.

This will be the spirit of all who follow Him. Christian love is slow to censure, quick to discern penitence, ready to forgive, to encourage, to set the wanderer in the path of holiness, and to stay his feet therein.

Can you see how God can look into your soul?

Are you interested in having a clean slate?

When is the time let God forgive you?