

BIBLE STUDY: LESSON 14

Scripture of Lesson: John 6: 60~ 7:24

1. Honesty and our motives before God –why did the Jews want to kill Jesus?

- a. V. 61 “Does this offend you?” Are we offended by any of the teachings of Christ?
 - i. Let us examine the innermost motive of our hearts to see if they are clean before God
 - ii. Ps 51:10 “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”
- b. *“Ideas are very general models of or assumptions about reality. They are patterns of interpretation, historically developed and socially shared.... It is extremely difficult for most people to recognize which ideas are governing their life and how those ideas are governing their life.... Jesus himself confronted and undermined an idea system and its culture, which in turn killed him. He proved himself greater than any idea system or culture, however, and lives on. He is continuing the process of a worldwide idea shift that is crucial to his perpetual revolution, in which we each are assigned a part.” Dallas Willard, Renovation of the Heart, NavPress, 2012, pp. 96-99.*
- c. Let us examine our hearts to see if the ideas and culture, which we live and are guided by, are right before God.
 - i. V. 7:24 *“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”*

2. Definition of “the world” –then and now

- a. All inhabited lands, territories; God’s creation on earth [Heb. Eres]
- b. The place where people live; a system opposed to God. [Gk: kosmos, The Strongest Concordance]
- c. *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” [Eph 6:12]*
- d. Do we recognize similar forces in our society/nation/world that are against God?

3. Jewish traditions and Christ

- a. Gathering storm of conflict between Jesus and the Jewish authorities
 - i. *“Almost everything he said and did collided with the official line. And a major reason for that was that Jesus, like Jeremiah, declared that Israel itself was on a collision course with the judgment of God, and the collision was urgently, horrifyingly, inescapably close. His stance on this was authentically prophetic.” Christopher Wright, Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament, IVP Academic, 1992, p. 235*
- b. Three ways Jesus was in conflict with the authorities of the time
 - i. His attitude towards the Romans
 - a) *“Love your enemies”* [Matt 5: 40-45] –radical and revolutionary teaching directly counter to the ideas and teachings of the time
 - b) How are we practicing this teaching of Jesus in our individual life, society and in national policy?
 - ii. His rejection of the Pharisaic agenda
 - a) They wanted to overthrow the Roman rule and establish/ restore Israel as God’s people
 - b) They sought to achieve a society totally shaped by fastidious observance of Torah in great detail
 - c) Jesus criticized their teachings as repulsive to God and ignored their rules in actions.
 - d) Are we seeped in a ritualistic, legalistic religious tradition instead of core teachings of Christ?
 - iii. His words and actions in the temple
 - a) Jesus cleansed the temple of the commercial trading.
 - b) Jesus criticized perversion of the role of the temple and negated its validity as the place of worship