

Sermon Listening Guide (July 19, 2026)

Scripture: John 7:40-52

Sermon Title: “Jesus Divides People”

First Thoughts

While Jesus is love and light, John 7 tells us his message and presence divides people.

The Gospel always demands a response from people.

Jesus Stirs the Pot with People

Jesus’ adult public ministry is well underway in John 7.

His hard teachings and claims have upset many Jewish people and their leaders.

Some believe he is a prophet or the Messiah, while others think he is a liar.

When faced with his audacious claims, we must decide how Jesus fits into our lives.

Jesus Stirs the Pot with Religious Leaders

The Pharisees mock the guards who do not arrest Jesus and look down upon them.

Even Nicodemus (John 3) is at odds with his Pharisee brothers.

Over the ages, people have often mocked Christians for being ignorant or narrow-minded.

World history does not show Christians to be ill-informed or mentally inferior.

A Few Truths

It is ok that Jesus is divisive.

Many will choose not to follow him.

It is God’s responsibility to open minds to the Gospel

Seek the truth about Jesus...and do not stop.

Our quest to know and understand Jesus should never stop.

Final Thoughts

In John, Nicodemus moves from curious to courageous to committed.

As we move through the Bible and church life, where are we on that spectrum?

Do you know the real Jesus?