

The Gospel of John 7:40-52

I Division Caused by Life's Appearance (7:40-52)

- A. In 7:40-52 we see the division caused by the Lord's appearance. Jesus was truly a controversial figure, even a troublemaker, causing debate and divisions.
1. The Lord was born in Bethlehem (**Luke 2:4-7**) but was raised in Nazareth of Galilee, a city that was despised by people at that time.
 2. He was the seed of David, but He came as a Nazarene (**Matt. 2:23**). He grew up "as a root out of a dry ground," having "no form nor comeliness," "no beauty that we should desire Him," and was "despised and rejected of men" (**Isa.53:2-3**).
 3. Hence, we should know Him not according to the flesh (**2 Cor.5:16**) but according to the Spirit.
- B. Today, the life-seeking people will also make trouble and cause divisions.

II Follow Christ By the Inward Reality, Not the Outward Appearance

- A. Some comprehended Christ according to His outward appearance (**7:27, 41-42, 52**) by taking the tree of knowledge resulting in death (**Gen. 2:17**). Their talk was simply the exercise of mental reasoning and was in the principle of the tree of knowledge.
- B. However, some apprehended Christ according to His inward reality (**7:40, 50-52**) by taking the tree of life, resulting in life (**Gen. 2:9**).
- C. Do not pay attention to the outward appearance. You must see what is inside.
1. Is there Christ within? We all must know Christ according to the inward reality and not according to the outward appearance.
 2. Those who went to the temple would have thought it foolish to go to that man to find God.
- D. Thus, we must learn to follow the Lord Jesus according to the inward reality and not according to the outward appearance.