

## Faking It

(John 7:45-52)

- Introduction:
1. Have you ever known someone who thought he was an authority on everything?
  2. I continually try to reinforce to the preaching students to simply say, "I don't know," rather than making something up.
  3. (1 Peter 4:11) "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..."
  4. Tonight's lesson is intended to serve as a warning to us to follow Jesus, and seek out authoritative answers to our questions.

### I. The Background to the Text

- A. Although some in Judea were wanting to kill Jesus (John 7:1), Jesus secretly went to Jerusalem during the feast of Tabernacles (John 7:2,10).
- B. While in Jerusalem, Jesus went to the temple and taught (John 7:14) and the people were confused, some believing and some questioning (John 7:40-42).
- C. This background sets the stage for the events that followed.

### II. The Officers Were Amazed

- A. (John 7:45-46).
- B. The Pharisees sent officers to arrest Jesus (John 7:32).
- C. Jesus spoke authoritatively.
- D. It wasn't his oratory skills, but his appeal to Scripture (John 7:17).

### III. The Pharisees Were Angered

- A. (John 7:47-52).
- B. They asked the officers if they, too, were deceived (John 7:47).
- C. They insult the people, calling them accursed (John 7:49).
- D. They reveal their own arrogance & ignorance (John 7:48).
  1. Search and look, no prophet from Galilee (John 7:52)?
  2. If they had searched, they would discover the following:
    - a. Jonah (2 Kings 14:25).
    - b. Nahum (Nahum 1:1).
    - c. Elijah (1 Kings 17:1).

### IV. Nicodemus Was Apologetic

- A. (John 7:50-51).
- B. He stood up for Jesus at the risk of being belittled among his peers.
- C. Don't ever back down or shy away from standing for what is right.

- Conclusion:
1. "I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene."
  2. I want us to be amazed by Jesus, and because of that, stand up in defense of him in an unbelieving world.