



SERMON NOTES

April 23, 2017

Scripture: John 7:40-53 (NAS)

"The Great Divide"

Rev. Bruce Gardner

40 Some of the people therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, "This certainly is the Prophet."
41 Others were saying, "This is the Christ." Still others were saying, "Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He?"
42 "Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?"
43 So a division occurred in the crowd because of Him.
44 Some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him.
45 The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?"
46 The officers answered, "Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks."
47 The Pharisees then answered them, "You have not also been led astray, have you?"
48 "No one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he?"
49 "But this crowd which does not know the Law is accursed."
50 Nicodemus (he who came to Him before, being one of them) *said to them,
51 "Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?"
52 They answered him, "You are not also from Galilee, are you? Search, and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee."
53 [Everyone went to his home.]

I. DIVISIONS AMONG MEN

A. Divisions Are Often Created By Our Sin

B. Divisions Occasionally Occur Because Of Righteousness *Luke 6:22*

II. FIRST DIVISION IN OUR TEXT

A. Those Who Saw Jesus As The Prophet *Deuteronomy 18:15*

B. Those Who Saw Jesus As The Christ

C. Those Who Opposed These Ideas Based ON False Assumptions

III. THE SECOND DIVISION

A. The Temple Guard—Bringing Back A Good Report

B. The Pharisees Who Had Sent The Guard To Arrest Him

C. The Response Of Each Of These Parties

1. The temple guard said, "No one has ever spoken the way this man speaks" *Luke 5:13, 5:20; John 18:6*

2. The Pharisees was that of arrogance and pride *I Corinthians 1:26-29; Matthew 23:12*

IV. THE THIRD DIVISION

A. The Pharisees

B. Versus One Of Their Own

C. The Response

1. The Pharisees—arrogant rejections of the truth

2. Nicodemus—calling them to be true to the Law because he had heard the words of Jesus *John 3:3; John 7:36*