

Title: Tap On The Shoulder - John 7:14-29

Read:

¹⁴⁻¹⁵With the Feast already half over, Jesus showed up in the Temple, teaching. The Jews were impressed, but puzzled: "How does he know so much without being schooled?" ¹⁶⁻¹⁹Jesus said, "I didn't make this up. What I teach comes from the One who sent me. Anyone who wants to do his will can test this teaching and know whether it's from God or whether I'm making it up. A person making things up tries to make himself look good. But someone trying to honor the one who sent him sticks to the facts and doesn't tamper with reality. It was Moses, wasn't it, who gave you God's Law? But none of you are living it. So why are you trying to kill me?" ²⁰The crowd said, "You're crazy! Who's #trying to kill you? You're demon-possessed." ²¹⁻²⁴Jesus said, "I did one miraculous thing a few months ago, and you're still standing around getting all upset, wondering what I'm up to. Moses prescribed circumcision—originally it came not from Moses but from his ancestors—and so you circumcise a man, dealing with one part of his body, even if it's the Sabbath. You do this in order to preserve one item in the Law of Moses. So why are you upset with me because I made a man's whole body well on the Sabbath? Don't be nitpickers; use your head—and heart!—to discern what is right, to test what is authentically right." ²⁵⁻²⁷That's when some of the people of Jerusalem said, "Isn't this the one they were out to kill? And here he is out in the open, saying whatever he pleases, and no one is stopping him. Could it be that the rulers know that he is, in fact, the Messiah? And yet we know where this man came from. The Messiah is going to come out of nowhere. Nobody is going to know where he comes from." ²⁸⁻²⁹That provoked Jesus, who was teaching in the Temple, to cry out, "Yes, you think you know me and where I'm from, but that's not where I'm from. I didn't set myself up in business. My true origin is in the One who sent me, and you don't know him at all. I come from him—that's how I know him. He sent me here."

Think:

Jesus provokes emotion. It might be a positive emotion, it might be a negative emotion, but he does provoke emotion. If you have been a Christian for any length of time, you must have experienced it. Some people seem to be full of happiness because they love Jesus and follow him. But I bet you have also experienced the opposite. Maybe there are people at school who ridicule your beliefs. Maybe there is some guy at college who just won't stop harping on about God. It seems to me if someone keeps bringing God up, in whatever way, that is because they know that God is out there. They know that God is on their case, and they have to make a decision. No one talks constantly about things that they are not aware of, do they? A close friend of mine recently asked that "I talk to the main man for him." He said that he had had a tough year, and that if God existed, then why was that the case? My response? I simply said that maybe, just maybe, God was trying to get his attention. Now the truth is, I don't know if God was trying to get his attention, but for whatever reason God had got his attention, whether my friend realised it or not. Now once God has your attention, you can't ignore him and that will provoke an emotion in someone. So what's our job in all this? I'm not sure we have one, other than to show our emotion about Jesus, and be real with it.

Pray:

Father thank you that you gave us the choice to decide how we feel about you. Please let the emotion people see in me, impact them, in a positive way. Amen.

Action:

When was the last time you prayed for someone you don't like? Pray for someone now, that gives you a hard time. Pray that God will reveal himself to them. Bye.