

# "The Sect Of The Saved"

## Text: (Mark 7:1-8)

(Preached at the Annual Meeting of the Johnston/Marshall Baptist Association, Milburn, OK on 10-18-1999)

### **INTRODUCTION:**

As I began to think upon what to share with you in this service I couldn't help but think about where our churches are headed, who we are and how we will be perceived in the months ahead and into the new century. As I thought upon that the Lord directed my attention to the text before us. As I read the passage I became very interested in the various "sects" and the underlying attitude of each. I began to consider if there are any parallels to the church today.

You might think "There are no 'sects' in the Baptist Church...but I would ask 'Are you serious?' "

A "sect" is a "faction", a "division" or a "group" ...and certainly we have "sects" in our churches today! We have folks who believe quite differently on a number of issues. We even have folks who take sides on "non-issues"!

Our text reveals 3 sects that existed in Jesus' day. As we look at them ask yourself the question, "Of what sect am I?" Now, what I want us to think about in the next few minutes is the general **attitude** that seems to be the identifying characteristic or trademark of each group. So let's look at the sects and what they are noted for.

We must first consider the sect of the....

### **PHARISEES (1-9)**

1. The attitude of the Pharisee can be summed up with verse 2, "**They found fault**".
  - a. What a sad commentary and summary of a person's life and ministry!
2. They were a sect that was completely dedicated to the study and teaching of God's word but in so doing they, through time, evolved into a place where **their own teaching, tradition and religious order** was placed on a par with, and in some cases in preference to, the Word of God!
  - a. It evolved into a system of "**nit-picking**" and was **impossible** to keep all their rules and regulations. They could not even perform themselves what they demanded of others!
    1. (Mat. 23:13; 23-24)
    2. Jesus called them "hypocrites"! Text:(6-8)
3. We have plenty of negativism in the church today! We have plenty whose trademark is that of the Pharisee, folks whose life may be summed up with the phrase "**they found fault**". We have in our churches today...
  - a. Too many who are immersed in "tradition" - - too few immersed in the "Word"!
  - b. Too many confessing their neighbors sin - - too few on their face at the altar of God confessing their own sin!
  - c. Too many who insist on having **their way** - - too few willing to cooperate for the spread of the Gospel and the testimony of their church!
  - d. Too many wanting to "**drive the train**" - - too few willing to "**shovel the coal**"!

As we approach the new century - let us not approach with an identity of "**they found fault**".

Another sect to be found in the day of our Lord is the sect of the....

**SADDUCEES (Mat. 22:23)**

1. The attitude of the Sadducee can be summed up in this passage as, "I don't believe that". They act as though they can just *ignore, deny or remove* those sections of God's Word they don't like.
  - a. (Acts 23:6-9) - Paul understood this and used it to his advantage.
    1. If there is no after-life then you are free to live any way you want without fear of having to give an account of your behavior or of judgment/condemnation. Sounds pretty contemporary doesn't it?
2. Oh my! How many Sadducees we have in our society and in our churches today! I find in visiting with people that on numerous issues, rather than agree with God and confess and repent of their sin, they...
  - a. Say, "I don't believe that way". - And so they continue living in their sin.
  - b. By their lifestyle they rip page after page out of God's Word! They will say to with all boldness...
    1. "There's nothing wrong with living together. We don't need to be married." ... *RIP*, there goes another page!
    2. "I don't have to go to church to be a Christian, to worship God or to be happy." ... *RIP*, there goes another page!
    3. "I don't have to share my testimony to be a good witness." ... *RIP*, there goes another page!
3. One thing's for certain in this world... you **cannot** be a Christian and be politically correct! Why? Jesus explains it perfectly to Nicodemus, (Jn. 3:19-20)
  - a. While I don't seek or enjoy offending people - I understand that the Word of God **is** offensive to the world and to worldly Christians! The desire of my heart however is to be faithful to my Lord and to His Holy Word!
4. What's going to make a difference in the new century?
  - a. **Preachers** who adopt the attitude and stance of the prophet who spoke to Ahab's messenger (2Ch. 18:13) - "As the Lord lives, whatever my God says, that I will speak."
  - b. **Churches** that cherish, teach and fall in love with the precious Word of God!
  - c. To understand that **hope** for the new century will not be packaged & marketed in Nashville, it will not surface as the "ultimate church growth program", it will not be the skill or personality of your pastor and it will certainly not be in the adoption of carnal thinking in the church.... Hope for the new century - the thing that will change the lives of men - is **the Word of the Living God !**

As we approach the new century, I challenge you to have the **faith** and the **guts** to approach it giving the Word of God the place it deserves in your life!

Let's see if there is another sect to be found in Jesus' day or not - a sect which may identify with Christianity, a sect which might adequately prepare us for the new century.

(Read v. 24-37)

### **COME-N-SEES ("Come And See") (24-37)**

1. There **is** another "sect" which goes unnamed but which is described for us in our text. This sect I have labeled as the "**Come-N-Sees**"!
  - a. The attitude of the "Come-N-See" can be summed up in:
    1. (24c) - "He could not be hidden"
    2. (36b) - "But the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it."
    3. (37b) - "He has done all things well."
  2. Oh! How we need more folks to join the sect of the "Come-N-Sees"! We desperately need, in this new century, more folks who....
    - a. Are **excited** about Jesus Christ!
      1. The only way to build a Church is to build it with people who are **excited** about their relationship with Jesus Christ!
      2. The only way to build a Sunday School is to **get excited** about Jesus!
      3. The only way to effectively share your faith is to **get excited** about Jesus!  
\* Oh! How we need people to join the sect of the "Come-N-Sees"!
    - b. Who profess openly the blessings of Christ!
    - c. Are excited about meeting God each day in His Word!
    - d. Believe in a "big God" and are not afraid to....
      1. Trust big
      2. Dream big
      3. Give big
      4. Pray big
      5. Serve big
      6. Love big
        - Oh! How we need to register more professing Christians into the membership of the "Come-N-Sees"!
3. Just look at a small sampling from the roster of the sect of the "Come-N-Sees"! Among them we find...
  - a. **Legion** - whose testimony prepared a 10 city region for the return ministry of Christ (Lk. 8:39-40)
  - b. **Blind man** - whose testimony was to openly declare and give thanks to God for what the Lord had done in his life (Jn. 9:25) - "One thing I know. That though I was blind, now I see."
  - c. **Samaritan woman** - who wanted her friends to know the man who met her at the well that day (Jn. 4:29) - "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"
  - d. I don't know about you, but **I want my name** to be found on the roster with these great men and women of God! I want to be a member of the sect of the "Come-N-Sees"! The Lord Jesus has blessed my life tremendously and I pray that I'll never be ashamed to openly proclaim "Come and see what the Lord has done in my life!"

### **CONCLUSION:**

What's really going to make a positive difference in the new century?

- Laying aside the "fault finding" of the Pharisees,
- Laying aside the "easy religion" of the Sadducees,
- Proudly standing in our own little part of the world and saying openly to our neighbors "Come and See" what the Lord Jesus has done in my life - and "Come and See" what He will do for you.

- May it be honestly said of us as it was with those great men and women of old...that concerning Jesus, the Son of God - "***He could not be hidden***" !