

## “A DIVINE ABUSE”

### JOHN 7:40-52

There are any number of things in life you can mishandle that will bring great trouble. Yet while such matters are mainly temporal, when we mishandle what the Bible says, the consequences are vastly greater!

### THE MISUSE OF SCRIPTURE

#### ① The Wrong \_\_\_\_\_ (7:40-44)

Regrettably, having completed the more tedious work of \_\_\_\_\_ into the scriptures, they mistake the lesser work of \_\_\_\_\_ out to the Savior.

They only looked at the \_\_\_\_\_ city stamped on the passport of Jesus; they should have looked closer at the \_\_\_\_\_ city marked there.

#### ② The Wrong \_\_\_\_\_ (7:45-49)

Though the Bible is a mirror to observe ourselves, they duplicate exactly what James 1:23-24 warns against: They \_\_\_\_\_ what they see!

They did not connect the head and the heart. What they thought they saw \_\_\_\_\_ led to little if any \_\_\_\_\_ examination.

It is never \_\_\_\_\_ the people beside you or the circumstances around you but the attitude within you.

If you have not been with \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 4:13), your life will remain the same – steeped in self and rooted in this world.

How ironic that not only the Jews who were directly given the \_\_\_\_\_ but all people have this \_\_\_\_\_ written on their hearts and stand before God accountable to Him for it (Romans 2:14-15).

#### ③ The Wrong \_\_\_\_\_ (7:50-53)

They declare that no prophet has ever arisen from Galilee, but if they reviewed the very scriptures they supposedly teach, they would find an \_\_\_\_\_ ... or two.

\_\_\_\_\_ can lead you to distort the facts!

If these teachers of the Law had themselves “searched and looked,” they would not have proclaimed such a wrong interpretation of the law.

### CONCLUSION

As fallible, finite, fickle people, we too can bend and twist and isolate and spiritualize the Word of God to say something it does not say. In so doing, we make the Word of God the word of man.

Remember:

O \_\_\_\_\_: What do I \_\_\_\_\_?

I \_\_\_\_\_: What does it \_\_\_\_\_?

A \_\_\_\_\_: How does it \_\_\_\_\_?