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When the festival was half over, Jesus went to the Temple and began to teach. The Jews were astonished and said, 'How did he learn to read? He has not been educated.' Jesus answered them:

'My teaching is not from myself: it comes from the one who sent me; anyone who is prepared to do his will, will know whether my teaching is from God or whether I speak on my own account. When someone speaks on his own account, he is seeking honour for himself; but when he is seeking the honour of the person who sent him, then he is true and altogether without dishonesty. Did not Moses give you the Law? And yet not one of you keeps the Law!'

Why do you want to kill me?' The crowd replied, 'You are mad! Who wants to kill you?' Jesus answered, 'One work I did, and you are all amazed at it. Moses ordered you to practise circumcision – not that it began with him, it goes back to the patriarchs – and you circumcise on the Sabbath. Now if someone can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the Law of Moses is not broken, why are you angry with me for making someone completely healthy on a Sabbath? Do not keep judging according to appearances; let your judgement be according to what is right.'

John 7: 14-24

Where do we find truth?

Friday 2nd week in Lent

There is a sense in which we may sympathise with those who questioned the legitimacy of John's teaching. ('John's teaching' because although the dialogue is framed as between Jesus and 'the Jews', the real issue being addressed was the questioning of John's teaching about Jesus by John's contemporaries.) We confront the same issue daily across every circumstance that is important to us. What is the truth about global warming? This is not just a question of scientific facts but also a profoundly religious question about God's call to us in the world. What is the genuine Christian teaching about abortion? About homosexuality? How do we respond to those who lay claim to know definitively the answers to these and many other questions?

What for us is the truth about Jesus? John, Mark, Luke, Matthew, Paul and the authors of Revelation and Hebrews all present Jesus in a different light, let alone the succession of interpretations over the centuries subsequent. Where do we find truth?