

John 7:25–32

²⁵ Now some of them from Jerusalem said, “Is this not He whom they seek to kill?”

²⁶ But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ?

²⁷ However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from.”

²⁸ Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, “You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know.

²⁹ But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me.”

³⁰ Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

³¹ And many of the people believed in Him, and said, “When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?”

³² The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him.

“Is He Really the Christ?” **John 7:25-32**

INTRO:

When we left the Lord Jesus last time, He was responding to the crowd’s astonishment at His teaching. Two aspects of His teaching inspired the crowd’s wonder. First, Jesus possessed an amazing knowledge of the Scriptures having not studied at the feet of a recognized Rabbi. Second, they were astounded because He taught with divine authority and did not cite the usual scholars in support of His teaching. Jesus’ authority came from God the Father. If they were willing to obey God, they would understand from where His authority came. He closed His discussion with an admonition to judge rightly. ***“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.” John 7:24.***

Verse 24 serves as both a bridge and a title for our text today. The people who heard Jesus tried to judge with righteous judgment. They began to deliberate on all they heard and tried to arrive at a verdict as to who Jesus really was. Not only must that first century group of Jews consider the evidence and arrive at a conclusion, we too must decide who Jesus was and is. This is the most important judgment we will ever make. For this judgment will determine where

we will spend eternity. So, let us listen in as the deliberations take place and the verdict is finally rendered.

I. The People's Deliberation (v. 25-27)

II. The Savior's Clarification (v. 28-29)

III. The Verdicts Given (v. 30-32)

I. The People's Deliberation (v. 25-27)

A. In **verse 25**, the crowd listening to the Lord Jesus teach now began to deliberate over what Jesus said. He called upon them to judge not according to appearances but a righteous judgment.

"Now some of them from Jerusalem said, 'Is this not He whom they seek to kill?' But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ? However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from."

B. The first part of their discussion surrounds the response of the religious authorities to Jesus. While the religious leaders of the day denied it earlier (**vs. 19-20**), the fact was they really did seek to kill Jesus. Yet, here He was teaching publicly and no one made any attempt to arrest Him or to keep Him from teaching. This confused these citizens of Jerusalem. (**v. 26**)

"Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ?"

The structure of this question anticipates a negative answer. The point wasn't that they really thought Jesus might be the genuine Messiah, they cannot understand why the leaders are doing nothing to stop Him.

C. They voice this thought and they reject it based on a false assumption. (**v. 27**)

"But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from."

John included this to show us one reason some rejected Jesus. They rejected Him because they had bought into popular thinking and had not checked out what the Bible said.

1. While this view of the coming of Messiah was not universally believed, it appears to have been fairly widely embraced. In several apocryphal books the Messiah is pictured as appearing suddenly on the scene to redeem Israel. The early church father, Justin Martyr, in his apologetic Dialogue with Trypho, recorded Trypho, a Jewish opponent, saying, *"But Christ -- if He has indeed been born, and did exist anywhere -- is unknown, and does not even know Himself, and has no power until Elias comes to anoint Him, and make Him manifest to all."*

2. This thinking is not supported by the scripture at all. Remember when the magi came to Herod in Jerusalem when Jesus was born? Herod called the scribes and inquired as to where the Messiah was to be born. They did not say, "O King, we haven't a clue." No. They knew exactly where He would be born because the Scriptures were clear on the matter. **Matthew 2:4-6**

"And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, In Bethlehem of

Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’”

Not only was His earthly birthplace well known in Scripture, His heavenly origin was also well attested. **Micah 5:2**

“Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”

Isaiah 9:6 is even clearer, assigning divine titles applied to Messiah.

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

3. Instead of letting the Bible speak for itself, they let men speak for the Bible. They took the footnotes as inspired and believed them over what was written in the text. They liked the Rabbis and believed what they said, instead of listening to what God wrote in His Word. They were not like the Bereans who ***“searched the Scriptures to see if these things were so.”*** Truth is not what we want to be true. It is what is true, whether we like it or not!

C. As a result they came to the wrong conclusion about Jesus, a mistake that would cost them dearly!

II. The Savior’s Clarification (v. 28-29)

A. Jesus knowing about the debate going on among the people, sought to clarify the very point they debated.

“You both know Me, and you know where I am from.”

He ministered in public. He lived His life before the people. He taught His disciples in public places. Although they knew who He was and His family, they really didn’t know Him at all. Some knew that He was from Galilee and had been a resident of Nazareth. At the same time, they had no clue who He really was.

B. They did not understand He was the eternal God in human flesh. They did not understand He was the Son of God who lived in perfect harmony with the Father before time was.

“In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God.” John 1:1.

C. They did not understand that He was sent from the Father to accomplish a specific task -- to become the Savior of the world. They did not understand the passages in the Old Testament which spoke about a suffering Messiah, such as **Isaiah 53** and **Psalms 22**. These passages didn’t do much for their self-made picture of the Messiah, so they did not dwell on them. They did not fully understand that the Law was given to make them understand their need of a Savior to pay for their sins and to bring them into a personal relationship with God.

D. Most startling of all, although they claimed to know God, love Him, and serve Him, they really did not know God at all. These were not irreligious Jews. They were faithful pilgrims at the Feast of the Tabernacles! They had come to do their God thing just as the Bible

commanded them. Most of these people here were zealous for the Law and genuinely sought to understand the Bible through the teaching of the Pharisees and scribes. Yet, for all their professions and efforts, in truth, they did not know God at all. And this was why they did not receive the Lord Jesus when He came.

III. The Verdicts Given (v. 30-32)

A. On the heels of this clarification, we find the verdicts given. In **verse 30** we find some recognized the divine claims in Jesus' statements and sought to arrest Him.

“So they were seeking to arrest Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.”

The efforts to kill Jesus were stymied because ***“His hour had not come.”*** A clear evidence of His divine purpose was the fact no one could stop Him from accomplishing His purpose until God's time was right.

B. The second verdict is found in **verse 31**.

“Many of the crowd believed in Him.”

We are not told what kind of belief this was. Remember in **John 2** we met a group that believed in the Lord Jesus because of the miracles, yet He did not commit Himself to them because He knew what was in people. They did not believe unto eternal life. However, they did have a measure of faith. One thing we can say for sure is that these folks at least took His Messianic claims seriously!

C. Finally, we find the official verdict in **verse 32**.

“The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest Him.”

They had religion but no relationship to the true and living God. They had no place for the Messiah in their religion.

What does all of this say to us? It seems to me that there are two major lessons here.

First, we need to be careful that we are studying the Bible and not just the thoughts of men. Beware of speculation. Embrace the truth. The Old Testament was clear about Messiah, but these people embrace the Rabbis instead of the Word of God. Remember the notes are not inspired, only the Scriptures are! Search the Scriptures to see if these things are so.

Second, we need to listen to the advice of the Apostle Paul to the church at Corinth. **2 Corinthians 13:5** ***“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test.”*** The biggest pity of all is that if we are like these people, going through all of the right motions, but we never really came to know the God who the motions were supposed to please. **John 17:3** says, ***“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”***

Jesus, Wonderful Lord! (insert)