

WHO IS JESUS?

JOHN 7:25-44

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN CHAPTER 7. D.J. DID A GREAT JOB LAST WEEK PREACHING ABOUT OBEDIENCE. WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A HEATED DEBATE BETWEEN JESUS AND THE JEWS AT THE TEMPLE. IT IS THE LAST BIG FEAST OF THE SEASON, THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES. JESUS SHOWED UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FESTIVAL AND BEGAN TO TEACH IN THE TEMPLE. OVER AND OVER, JESUS REVEALS THAT HE HAS BEEN SENT BY THE FATHER AND HIS TEACHING IS NOT HIS OWN. HIS TEACHING COMES FROM THE FATHER AS WELL. JESUS SAYS SOMETHING VERY INTERESTING. HE SAYS, "ANYONE WHO CHOOSES TO DO THE WILL OF GOD WILL FIND OUT WHETHER MY TEACHING COMES FROM GOD OR WHETHER I SPEAK ON MY OWN." WHEN WE CHOOSE TO TRUST GOD AT HIS WORD, WE GAIN UNDERSTANDING AND OUR FAITH GROWS. MANY PEOPLE WANT TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WILL BEFORE DOING WHAT HE SAYS, BUT IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY. TRUST AND BELIEVE, UNDERSTANDING WILL FOLLOW. THE JEWS ARE CONFLICTED AS WE WILL SEE IN TODAY'S TEXT. THEY ARE SO USED TO RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS AND PRECONCIEVED IDEAS OF WHO THE MESSIAH IS, THAT THEY CAN'T SEE THAT MESSIAH STANDS BEFORE THEM. THERE IS NO ONE LIKE JESUS. AS USUAL, THE LORD'S WORDS BRING CONFLICT WITH UNBELIEF.

John 7:25-44 NIV

²⁵ At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill?" ²⁶ Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? ²⁷ But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from." ²⁸ Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, "Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, ²⁹ but I know him because I am from him and he sent me." ³⁰ At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. ³¹ Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, "When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?" ³² The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him. ³³ Jesus said, "I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me. ³⁴ You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come." ³⁵ The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks? ³⁶ What did he mean when he said, 'You will look for me, but you will not find me,' and 'Where I am, you cannot come'?" ³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the

festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. ⁴⁰ On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.” ⁴¹ Others said, “He is the Messiah.” Still others asked, “How can the Messiah come from Galilee? ⁴² Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David’s descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?” ⁴³ Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

John 7:25 NIV

²⁵ At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill?

THERE ARE THREE GROUPS OF JEWS IN THIS TEXT; PILGRIMS,
RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES, AND THE LOCALS

THE LOCALS KNEW ABOUT THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS EVEN
THOUGH THEY WERE NOT THE INSTIGATORS

John 7:26-27 NIV

²⁶ Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? ²⁷ But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.”

THESE PEOPLE ARE BLOWN AWAY THAT JESUS IS BEING
ALLOWED TO PREACH OPENLY THAT HE IS THE SON OF GOD
NOW THEY QUESTION WHETHER THE AUTHORITIES BELIEVE
HIM

IT IS THE SOVERIEGNTY OF GOD HOLDING THEM BACK. GOD
CAN TIE THE ENEMIES HANDS THOUGH HE DOESN'T TURN
THEIR HEARTS

WE KNOW JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE MESSIAH WILL COME
FROM OUT OF NOWHERE /MISINTERPERATED ISA 53

Malachi 3:1 NIV

3 “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

THEY THOUGHT SUDDENLY MEANT MAGICALLY

THE PROPHESED MESSIAH STANDS BEFORE THEM BUT THEIR
HEARTS ARE HARDENED BY RELIGION AND TRADITIONS

John 7:28-29 NIV

²⁸ Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, “Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, ²⁹ but I know him because I am from him and he sent me.”

BASICALLY, JESUS IS SAYING “YOU KNOW ME IN TERMS OF MY PHYSICAL PRESENCE ON EARTH BUT I AM REALLY FROM THE GLORY OF MY FATHER. YOU DO NOT KNOW THIS BECAUSE YOU DO NOT KNOW GOD; NEVERTHELESS, I KNOW HIM BECAUSE I AM FROM HIM AND HE SENT ME. GOD IS TRUE TO HIS PROMISES AND HE PROMISED I WOULD COME. I AM HERE BY HIS AUTHORITY NOT MINE. YOUR RELIGION IS WORTHLESS BECAUSE YOU DON’T KNOW GOD.”

REMEMBER CHURCH, IT’S ABOUT RELATIONSHIP NOT RELIGION

John 7:30-31 NIV

³⁰ At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. ³¹ Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, “When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?”

FIRST, WE SEE THAT THE JERUSALEMITES WANTED TO SEIZE JESUS FOR HIS COMMENTS. GOD’S SOVERIEGN WILL WAS AT WORK KEEPING THEM FROM LAYING A HAND ON JESUS.

PROBABLY WORKED OUT THROUGH THE HANDS OF THE
“MANY” THAT BELIEVED IN JESUS. EVEN THOUGH THEIR BELIEF
WAS BECAUSE OF HIS MIRACLES

John 7:32-34 NIV

³² The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.

³³ Jesus said, “I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me. ³⁴ You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come.”

THE CHIEF PRIESTS (SADDUCEES, MORE POLITICAL) AND
PHARISEES WERE NORMALLY RIVALS. THEY FOUND A
COMMON ENEMY IN JESUS. JESUS GIVES THEM THE MOST
HORRIBLE NEWS A HUMAN CAN HEAR IN VS. 34

YOU WILL LOOK FOR ME PHYSICALLY BUT NOT SPIRITUALLY.
YOUR UNBELIEF RENDERS YOU BLIND AND UNABLE TO
UNDERSTAND ME. YOU FIND JESUS THROUGH FAITH NOT BY
SIGHT OR INTELECT.

MARTIN LUTHER WRITES ABOUT VS. 34 “THESE ARE TERRIBLE
WORDS, I DO NOT LIKE TO READ THEM”

Isaiah 55:6 NIV

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

Hebrews 4:7 NIV

⁷ God again set a certain day, calling it “Today.” This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”

TODAY IS THE DAY FOR REPENTANCE AND SALVATION IN CHRIST
DO NOT WAIT TO FULLY GIVE YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST,
TOMORROW IS NOT PROMISED TO ANY OF US

John 7:35-36 NIV

³⁵ The Jews said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks? ³⁶ What did he mean when he said, ‘You will look for me, but you will not find me,’ and ‘Where I am, you cannot come’?”

THEY STILL DON'T GET IT, BECAUSE THEY CAN'T UNDERSTAND
ONE MUST BE FIRST DRAWN BY GOD THE FATHER,
EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT ONE CHOOSES TO RECEIVE

THE FREE GIFT OF SALVATION. BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

John 7:37-39 NIV

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

THE LAST DAY OF THE FESTIVAL WAS MARKED WITH A SPECIAL POURING OUT OF WATER AT THE BASE OF THE ALTER. PEOPLE WERE SINGING SONGS AS THEY DISMANTLED THEIR TENTS. WITH ALL OF THE SYMBOLISM FRESH IN THE MINDS OF THE JEWS, JESUS LOUDLY DECLARES THE INVITATION TO SALVATION SPIRITUALLY THIRSTY? COME TO JESUS AND DRINK FOM THE RIVER OF LIFE. NOT ONLY WILL YOU BE SATISFIED, BUT IT WILL FLOW OUT FROM WITHIN YOU

NO ONE CAN BE INDWELT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND KEEP THAT SPIRIT TO THEMSELVES. WHERE THE SPIRIT IS, HE FLOWS FORTH; IF THERE IS NO FLOWING FORTH, HE IS NOT THERE

John 7:40-44 NIV

⁴⁰ On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet." ⁴¹ Others said, "He is the Messiah." Still others asked, "How can the Messiah come from Galilee? ⁴² Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" ⁴³ Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

YES, JESUS GREW UP IN NAZARETH BUT HE WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM. BOTH MARY AND JOSEPH COME FROM THE LINE OF DAVID. A LITTLE RESEARCH WOULD HAVE EXPOSED THAT TRUTH

HUMANS WILL ALWAYS BE DIVIDED OVER JESUS

HE IS NOT JUST JESUS OF NAZARETH, HE IS NOT JUST A GOOD TEACHER, HE IS NOT JUST A MIRACLE WORKER, HE IS JESUS THE CHRIST OF GOD; SAVIOR OF THE SINNER WHO HUMBLER THEMSELVES TO REPENTANCE. DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEART TOWARDS HIM CHURCH. RECEIVE HIM, OBEY HIM, WORSHIP HIM, AND LIVE

END