

More Questions (John 7:25–36)

By Pastor Jeff Alexander (10/24/2021)

Introduction

1. John 7 and 8 bring the issue of Jesus to a crisis. Opinions about Jesus swirled as opposition grew throughout His ministry because Jesus deliberately provoking the animosity of the two leading parties in authority. It also involved the two populations, the Galileans and Judeans. These provocations culminated in a united cry for His crucifixion: *“But they all cried out together, ‘Away with this man ... Crucify, crucify him!’ ... They were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed”* (Luke 23:21–23).
2. These chapters reveal wrong motives of many in their sinful pursuit of self-preservation. One cannot be neutral about Jesus Christ. One either loves and obeys Him or hates Him.
3. As noted in the previous message, there are five issues about Jesus that are dealt with in this chapter: (1) His *character*—good man or charlatan (vv. 10–13), (2) His *doctrine*—officially approved or self-taught (vv. 14–18), (3) His *works*—lawful or lawless (vv. 19–24), (4) His *origin*—God or Galilee (vv. 25–31), and (5) His *warning*—seeking Christ but not finding Him (vv. 32–36).

I. “You Know Me?” (vv. 25–31)

1. Their troubling observation (vv. 25, 26)—Jesus’ open teaching, and the authorities’ silence
 - a. Some doubted the threat (v. 20) while others knew their leaders were plotting His death (v. 25).
 - b. These shared a problem that is typical of people and places: conclusions based on their limited observations and consultations, producing false confidence, as demonstrated in this passage.
2. Their false confidence (vv. 27)

They spoke with great confidence: *“We know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from”* (v. 27).

- a. Their presumptions failed to observe the spiritual principle involved: no one knows the Son or the Father except the one to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him (Matthew 11:27). Jesus warned, *“Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment”* (v. 24).
- b. Their self-confident conclusions also failed due to their inaccurate expectation of the Messiah’s appearance. The Jews knew that Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (v. 42; Micah 5:2). The popularly held view of Messiah was that He would be born into the Jewish race but remain in obscurity until He was ready to effect Israel’s redemption. They knew Jesus was from Galilee.
- c. Their deep ignorance exposed (vv. 28–31)
 - 1) “You think you know Me?” They did not *know* Him, which challenge involved two powerful truths: (1) They did not recognize Him because they did not know the Father who sent Him. (2) They did not understand that they had no control over the timing of their effort to arrest Him. He would submit to them only when His hour arrived.
 - 2) “You don’t know Me because you don’t know the One who sent Me.” He came, not from Nazareth or Bethlehem, but from the Father and to do the Father’s will. The Jews took pride in presuming to know the one true God, but they did not recognize Jesus, nor did they truly understand the law. This failure was proof they did not know the God they presumed to know either. If they had known Him, they would never have rejected His Son.

3) Murmuring and believing

The popular expectation of Messiah did not include miracles. However, those who understood the OT could not help but observe that Christ's coming would include miraculous works (Isaiah 35:5, 6). This observation argues that their faith was *saving* faith. While many fussed about Jesus and argued among themselves divisively, God was saving some for His glory.

II. Where Will He Go? (vv. 32–36)

1. The authorities responded to the people's grumbling by taking action to arrest Him (v. 32).
2. Christ rebuked their attempted arrest (vv. 33, 34) on the futility of their timing due to the Father's being fully in control of His "hour" to suffer. Here is a clear threat. They will look for Him but will die in their sins (8:21).
3. More confusion and misunderstanding as to where He intended to go to escape them (vv. 35, 36). A nagging conviction troubled them that they did not fully comprehend His plans. Everyone who reads this ought to plead with God for mercy and grace not only to understand but benefit from His saving purpose being worked out with sovereign precision.

III. Observations

1. Jesus was met with ridicule from those who supposed their understanding was correct. It is no different today.
2. God is fully in control of every situation. The desire of people is always kept in check with the Lord's will. No one does anything that does not fall into His eternal purpose. Even our sins and failures are meant ultimately to bring glory to His Name.
3. Seeking Jesus does not necessarily bring salvation. The Jews were seeking Him to arrest Him and to put Him to death while the people were seeking Him for what He could do to make their lives more comfortable. Jesus must be sought for the glory of God alone. Indeed, our problem is "*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23).

Application

1. Do you take seriously the claims of Jesus on your life? Your eternal destiny depends on His revelation of Himself savingly to you.
2. Do you understand His teachings as they apply to you?
3. Are you seeking Jesus for the reasons that honor Him and bring glory to His father and joy to your existence?