

John 7:25-52

Jesus Teaches at the Feast

The people of Jerusalem—the local Jews—ordinary folks—are confused. Jesus is the talk of the town and they are trying to figure out just exactly who He is.

Verse 27 Why do they think that Jesus is probably not the Messiah? No one will know where the Messiah is from (which was a tradition not based on Scripture)

What does that tell you about the people? The people are ignorant of the prophecies of the Old Testament like Micah 5:2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” The common understanding of Jesus’ origin is that He grew up—and was evidently been born—in Nazareth. Not only do they fail to perceive His heavenly origin, but they are also wrong about His earthly origin. They really do not know Him very well at all.

Application: We need to be informed about the truths of Scripture. It is easy to be led astray. We need to be students of the Bible.

verse 28 How does Jesus respond to their comments? “Yes, you know me!” They know who He is in the sense that they know our Lord’s family. They know Jesus the man, but not Jesus as God.

....and you know where I am from.” They know where He is from (Nazareth, in Galilee), though they seem not to know that He was born in Bethlehem. But Jesus basically says, “Let me tell you where I’m really from!” Jesus always points to His divine origin.

Note: Jesus was not simply *born* into this world like any other human; He was *sent* to earth by the Father (verses 28-29). This means that He existed before He was born on the earth.

Verses 30 and 44 say they are not able to lay a hand on Him. Why couldn’t they seize Him? We don’t know exactly how, but God sees to it that Jesus is untouched. God prevented Jesus’ premature arrest. Jesus’ enemies were powerless until His time came.

Application: What does that mean to us? God has a plan for my life also. God doesn’t merely know how long we will live, He has ordained/determined the number of our days. There is no such thing as a premature death. That thought should help us get rid of fear.

- Psalm 139:16 “All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”
- Job 14:5 “Man’s days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed.”

v. 25-31 There is not a clear consensus about who the people think Jesus is. In spite of the zeal of those who wish to kill Jesus, there are also those who are drawn to Jesus by His teaching and miracles.

One other thing to add to the confusion: **What are the Messianic expectations of the Jews?** The common understanding of the Messiah was that He would be a powerful human deliverer who would overthrow Roman rule and establish a political kingdom. Jesus doesn’t look like the Messianic model they are expecting. It’s another case of Old Testament ignorance—see Isaiah 53.

The temple guards are sent to arrest Jesus in verse 31. Why do they return empty handed in verses 45-46? They are amazed at the words of Jesus. It may seem unusual that these officers would so weakly admit that they have failed in their mission, but they are not hardened Roman soldiers. They are Levites whose interests are mainly religious. Their statement is another witness to the true identity of Jesus.

In verses 28-29 Jesus talks about where He is from. What does He talk about in verses 33-34? Where He is going, which is heaven, alongside the One who sent Him.

How do the Jews respond to Jesus’ comments about where He’s going? They do not understand where Jesus is going any more than they understand where He has come from.

What does Jesus promise those who come to Him? streams of living water

What does He mean by streams of living water? The living water is a reference to the Holy Spirit. See John 4:14.

NOTE: Given = gift The Holy Spirit doesn’t just appear on the scene. Jesus pours it out.

Application: If you have streams of living water flowing from within, what will be some of the symptoms/evidence? What will that look like in your life? Changed, transformed, different wants, priorities, attitudes, friends. Fruit of Spirit.

In verse 39 John speaks of Jesus' coming ordeal at the cross as being glorified, and that it must come before the power of Pentecost. Calvary is the necessary prelude to Pentecost, and the cross is seen as *glory*, not *shame*.

How would you describe the attitude of the crowd toward Jesus in verses 40-44? Divided. Polarized. Confused.

How do you explain that some are attracted to Jesus? It's a heart thing. Their hearts have been prepared to receive the truth as John 6:44, 65 tells us.

Application: The same holds true for us today as we witness to the unsaved. Some will be ready to receive the truth. Some will not yet be ready.

How would you describe the reaction of the Pharisees in verses 47-49? Arrogance and disdain for the common people. To them, Jesus has taken advantage of the mindless masses, the common people. They feel that these poor, simple, gullible folks are being taken in by our Lord's actions and words. Those who reject Jesus think themselves too smart to be taken in by Him. The proudly wise are clearly the fools. Pride in one's knowledge often results in spiritual blindness.

How does Nicodemus engage his fellow Pharisees? Weakly. He questions the correctness of the judicial process. The most we can say is that he was willing to defend Jesus' rights.

What is wrong with the statement of verse 52? Nicodemus' colleagues do not reply rationally but emotionally. They have already decided Jesus' case without hearing Him. As a matter of fact, Jonah, Hosea, and Nahum were from Galilee—and possibly also Elijah, Elisha, and Amos.

MEMORIZE: John 7:38