

38 John 7:25-36

Can This Be The Christ?

REVIEW / INTRODUCTION

The last time we visited the gospel of John we read about Jesus confronting religious leaders because their teaching and their message was not biblical. Normally when people stray from what God intended they move away from the word of God and do one of two things. They will promote a liberal agenda with no right and wrong. Or they will push a hyper-moralistic and legalistic approach with lots of rules that are added to the bible. The word of God is complete. We do not need to ignore it or add to it.

The heart of the problem we discovered is when people think they know better than God and come up with their own stuff.

READING THE TEXT

25 Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, “Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? 26 And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is

the Christ? 27 But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from.”28 So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, “You know me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know. 29 I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me.” 30 So they were seeking to arrest him, but **no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come**. 31 Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, “When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?”

Officers Sent to Arrest Jesus

32 The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about him, and **the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest him.**

33 Jesus then said, “I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. 34 You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you

cannot come.” 35 The Jews said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? 36 What does he mean by saying, ‘You will seek me and you will not find me,’ and, ‘Where I am you cannot come’?”

PREACHING THE TEXT

²⁵ Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, **“Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? ²⁶ And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him!**

Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ?

THE MAN THEY SEEK TO KILL

A few verses back we saw uninformed people mock Jesus for claiming the authorities were trying to kill Him. But people from Jerusalem knew how the Religious Authorities acted when they perceived a threat to their power.

Those from Jerusalem knew plans were being discussed for ways to arrest and kill Jesus. Those who

knew of the deadly plans were shocked with His bold move of showing His face in public. Isn't this the guy they are trying to kill? If people were after me I would be hiding out in the caves or leave the area and change my name.

HERE HE IS SPEAKING OPENLY

But here He is speaking openly. What is even more surprising is;

THEY SAY NOTHING TO HIM!

They say nothing. The people who want to arrest Jesus and kill Him are acting like statues. So the crowd begins asking questions.

DO THE AUTHORITIES KNOW THAT HE IS THE CHRIST?

Perhaps the authorities know in their heart that Jesus is truly The Messiah. Maybe that is why they seem frozen and can not arrest Him.

It seems like this man really could be the Messiah....He sure seems bold enough.

²⁷ **But we know where this man comes from,**
and when the Christ appears,

no one will know where he comes from.”

THOSE “OTHER” SOURCES
WE KNOW THAT NO ONE WILL KNOW

This crowd entertained the idea that this may be the Christ. But then as they reason together they came to the conclusion that this could not possibly be the Christ. After all, they surmised, the Christ is supposed to make a sudden appearance. They picked up the idea that The Messiah was supposed to just suddenly walk into town as a mysterious figure and kind of parachute into Jerusalem. He was to appear suddenly rather than growing up among them.

Examine Your Beliefs

On what are they basing their belief that The Messiah must be completely unknown to them? This belief comes from non biblical sources. There are two apocalyptic books called 4 Ezra and Enoch that are not in the bible. The information contained in these writings became popular. And when something is repeated often enough it becomes like the gospel.

Before we criticize this crowd for getting their stuff from sources outside the bible let's examine how the same thing occurs today. We have examples of doctrines that many Christians swallow because we saw it on tv or heard it from a friend.

EXAMPLES OF STRONG BELIEFS NOT CONFIRMED IN SCRIPTURE

The Blood Moons: This is a book that claims there will be several blood moons that appear before the rapture. And if you look at the appearance of these moons you can predict the Lord's return to an approximate season. The problem is the author is discredited theologian. He denies that Jesus claimed to be the Messiah. Most importantly, blood moons appear in apocalyptic literature and not meant to be used to set future dates for the return of Christ. It's a description that the whole of creation will be radically shaken and transformed when Christ appears. The language is either figurative or it could be that there is no much cosmic dust that the sun is darkened and the moon appears dark red. That's it! This guy makes millions on

selling such garbage and all we get out of the deal is confusion and disappointment that his predictions lead nowhere.

The Pre-Trib Rapture:

The Prayer of Jabez: “expand my territory” which is at least related to the Law of Attraction, which is a false teaching.

Law of Attraction: There is something called the law of attraction that teaches that whatever you **speak** you attract to yourself. Therefore some walk around all day making sure that they dare not say a pessimistic word. If anyone expresses real heart felt discouragement they are hushed because these negative words might attract bad things. But what many do not realize is that this law of attraction is not in scripture. In fact you see the Psalmist often crying out in despair. You can find Elijah saying negative things such as; *“there is no one left but me so let me just lie down and die.”* How negative of him! But does this attract negative things? No, God sees the honest emotional struggle of Elijah and God send help to

encourage him. You see Jesus sneak up people and heal them even though that person healed said nothing positive at all.

This law of attraction was originally an occult view based on a god that is an energy force that can be manipulated by our words and thoughts. The word-faith movement adopted this concept and Christianized it. The results are a false notion of God that is accepted by millions. He is a god who wants us to pretend things are good, bright and cheery. He wants us to say everything is good even when we are deeply suffering and disappointed. He wants us to claim and strive so that we speak things into existence.

There are times when God gives us a gift of faith so that we just know in our heart that God will help us in some way. But that is not the same as this in-the-flesh exercise of saying words that manipulate the god force to do things according to your wishes.

PRE-DIGESTING YOUR FOOD

When you go out for lunch today after the service are you going to let someone chew on your food and digest it for you? That's gross, right? So also it is gross to let someone else pre-digest the word of God for you. Chew on your own spiritual food. Look it up for yourself. You can do this!

If you want to sit in on this one session of Bible Study Tools and methods this Tuesday at 6pm you are welcome. We are showing people how to look up things in the bible to know what it says about any topic.

THOSE EXTRA-BIBLICAL SOURCES

My point is that this crowd got their notion that the Christ has to appear from some mysterious unknown place. They got this notion from a non biblical source, which led to false assumptions about God that resulted in them rejecting Christ. Theology matters. And If your theology is true you will be able to find clear evidence of your view in Scripture without massaging and manipulating the clear reading of the text.

AN ASSIGNMENT

So I encourage you to do an assignment. List 5 of your views such as the timing of the rapture, purgatory, your view of communion, your view on whether all roads lead to God, and then use the concordance at the back of your bible and find at least 3 verses that address your topic. Don't start with your assumptions, look up the passages and challenge your views. Don't believe things just because they appear in a movie or popular novel or self help book. Believe it only when you see it in the word of God.

THE CROWDS - CONTAMINATED WITH FALSE DOCTRINE

Crowds of people were stating this extra-biblical view and it clouded their ability to discern Jesus as Christ and Messiah! So thousands and even millions can come to believe a false teaching if it is repeated often enough and reinforced in our entertainment.

So here is the reply of Jesus to the crowd's unbiblical theology.

²⁸ So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple,

“You know me, and you know where I come from.

But I have not come of my own accord.

He who sent me is true, and

him you do not know.

JESUS PROCLAIMED IN THE TEMPLE

The word ***proclaimed*** is a forceful statement. Jesus got up and answered forcefully to the idea that the Christ has to come from an unknown town or city. His first statement is meant to be a rhetorical question.

YOU KNOW WHERE I COME FROM

The force of His statement is something like this;
“you think you really know me and know where I come from?”

BUT I DO NOT COME FROM A HOMETOWN LIKE
OTHERS

Jesus is not even going to take on the myth that the Messiah has to come from an unknown location. People often have so much invested in their bad theology that they will not consider that they may have been on the wrong track for years or decades. So he does not even

take on their extra-biblical theology which would have led to a lengthy debate. He did not have time for that in this setting.

Instead, he tells them that they do not really know where He comes from.

I WAS SENT BY A PERSON WHOSE PLACE YOU DO NOT KNOW

Yes Jesus had a mother who was from Nazareth who now lived in Capernaum. But His Father was from heaven. Jesus was sent from His true home of origin at the Father's side. His real hometown is among the angels in heaven. *So even though your theology is screwed up the truth is you do not know my hometown.*

²⁹ I know him, for **I come from him, and he sent me.**"

I KNOW HIM AND WAS SENT BY HIM

I do not come from Nazareth originally, or Galilee now. I came from God's presence, not a town. You see, I was with the Father before time existed. Yes I know Joseph and Mary and my brothers. But The Father sent me into this family to fulfill prophecy and take on this body

with which I will die for your sins. Therefore I do come from a location that you have ever visited nor from a Father you have never met.

³⁰ So **they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.**

SEEKING TO ARREST HIM

It looks like some in the crowd were insulted when Jesus said; ***“Him you do not know.”*** How could it be that some in the crowd claimed to be such godly people but they had no knowledge of God?

There are many people who are either partially or wholly motivated by spiritual pride. They have some head knowledge. They look like upstanding citizens. But much of what they do is based on proving to themselves and others how awesome they are. The way you discover their heart is to challenge one of their beliefs or perhaps their motivation. The person who is partially or wholly motivated by pride will go out of their ever living mind if their views or assumptions are questioned.

So those who were fueled by pride tried to jump up and perform a citizen's arrest on Jesus. They failed because Jesus did not consent to His arrest. Here is the reaction of those who were humble and seeking the truth.

³¹ Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, “When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?”

Okay, so perhaps we were hasty in assuming we knew the hometown of the Christ. If this man were sent by the Father then technically we have never seen His hometown. And the scriptures tell us that the Christ will appear and heal people and dry tears and give people hope. And has anyone performed more miracles than Jesus? What if this is the Messiah!? The miracles confirm that he comes from God.

So there are at least two camps in this crowd. One is fueled by spiritual pride and Jesus tweeks their noses. And the other camp has non-biblical information that has confused them. They are honestly trying to discern the truth. And Jesus can work with that.

Officers Sent to Arrest Jesus

³² The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest him.

So the crowds were muttering. And some were actually coming to faith in Jesus Christ as the Messiah. The Pharisees did not like that at all. The Pharisees wanted people to listen to them, not Jesus or anyone else. This chaos would give them the excuse to jump in and arrest Jesus.

SENT TO ARREST

Notice that just because someone was sent to arrest Jesus did not mean that he would go along with the plan. Jesus is the Son of God and with a mere command of His voice the universe was created, wind and waves were calm, demons were cast out, dead were raised. So this is one guy that you can not arrest or kill unless he goes along with the plan. And He does not go along with the plan of His arrest until it is the Father's time.

In verse 30 we see that no one could lay a hand on Him because it was not His time. Then in **verses 44 and 46** we learn that all throughout this festival people tried to arrest Him but they had no success.

If God calls you to follow Him into difficult places to share the gospel you are on God's timeline. He will give you the boldness to speak and no one will shut you down or lay a hand on you unless God permits them to do so.

³³ **Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. ³⁴ You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come."** ³⁵ The Jews said to one another,

"Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks?"

YOU WILL SEEK ME

Because of His statement many were thinking Jesus was going to go and hide from them. Jesus does not hide from anything or anyone. He was not careless or reckless, but when The Father said "go" Jesus went. His boldness

came from knowing that the Father loved Him and would do what is best. We can have the same assurance that we do not have to hide our faith. We can follow Jesus even if He leads us into difficulties. He will give us courage and boldness and give us the words to say as we seek to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in this dark world.

TAKING IT HOME

1. Have you taken the time to examine your beliefs to see whether they are really in the bible? If not, will you?
2. Do you have the courage to speak the truth of the gospel in the love of Christ? (is there someone or someplace where you know God is calling you to be bold with your faith but you have not yet acted?)
3. If you lack courage to speak and act in His name you need to know that God may call you to suffer for His namesake. But you will be given the faith to handle whatever you are called to do in His name and for His glory. (and no one will lay a hand on you without His permission and before the right time, God is in control! And God is good!)
4. Whose approval means the most to you, God or people. If the answer is people then you will be a

spiritual marshmallow until you decide to get your life from God and fear only Him.