

**WHO IS JESUS?**  
(John 7:25-52)

Jesus is still at the Feast of Tabernacles and he is teaching in the temple and the people are murmuring among themselves, debating as to who Jesus really is.

*And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.*

John 7:12

Some said Jesus was a good man. Others said he was a deceiver. Some said that he had a devil. (John 7:20) but there was also a good bit of whispering that this man may be the Christ. And so we pick up in our text.

*Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill? But lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?*

John 7:26

Here it says that there were "some of them of Jerusalem." That is, the common people. It was the masses of people that were milling around the temple. They were all whispering about this man Jesus, but they were afraid to speak openly for fear of the Jewish rulers. So, we are not talking about the Sanhedrin here, but rather, the general populous who feared the rulers.

And the people were amazed because it was well known that the ruling Jews sought to kill Jesus and yet, here he was speaking openly and boldly in the temple. Two things amazed them. First, that Jesus would dare speak boldly and openly in the temple when he knew that the authorities were looking for him to kill him. And secondly, that the authorities said nothing to him. And they reasoned among themselves why the authorities did not arrest him. And they wondered,

*Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?*

John 7:26

Have the rulers decided this is the anointed One. Maybe the rulers have some inside information that this is indeed the Messiah. Maybe they have questioned him and found that he is true. And so, it is on everyone's lips, "Is this man Jesus the Christ?"

But the people were generally convinced that this could not be the Christ.

*Howbeit we know this man whence he is; but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is.*

John 7:27

It seems that false doctrine is always with us and there was a good bit of false doctrine in and around Jerusalem in Jesus' day. It appears that the common expectation was that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem and then he would disappear and no man would know where he was until the time of his revelation. Now, in a way this was true. He was born in Bethlehem and then he was taken down into Egypt until Herod was dead. But then, he returned to Nazareth and grew up right there among the people. He was known as the carpenter's son and there seemed to be nothing supernatural about him. People knew him. They knew where he was. And they knew where he came from.

But the common thought was that the Messiah would gloriously appear out of nowhere. He would suddenly come and no one would know from where. And so the people surmised that Jesus could not be the Messiah because they knew where he came from. They knew his father and mother, or so they thought. And so, this could not be the Christ.

### The Teaching of Jesus as to Who He Is

On the last day of the feast, Jesus went up to the temple again. He taught in the temple in the middle of the feast (probably day four) and now he goes back to the temple on the last day (day seven). He was probably in hiding for three days before making one last appearance at the feast.

#### I. Statement number one by Jesus (v.28)

- A. I am sent by God.
- B. You do not know him.

This was the Jews' claim to fame. They certainly knew the true God. This was their heritage. They certainly thought they knew God through the Law. The Law was their connection to God. But Jesus said that the Law pointed to him. (5:46) Since they did not recognize Jesus, it is obvious that they did not know God.

- C. But, I know him.

Response:

- 1. Some sought to take him (to kill him). (v.30)
  - a. Because he professed to be the Messiah sent from God.
  - b. Because he told them they did not know God.
- 2. Many believed on him. (v.31)
- 3. Pharisees and chief priests sent officers (temple guard) to take him.

#### II. Statement number two by Jesus (v.33, 34)

- A. I will only be with you for a little while.
- B. I am going back to heaven.
- C. Ye shall seek me and not find me.

This seems to be a prophetic statement here. Obviously, anyone who earnestly seeks him will find him. "Seek and ye shall find." But this seems to be a statement applying to the nation. In the time of their distress they will seek their deliverer and he will not be found. This ultimately came to pass in AD 70 when Titus came marching into Jerusalem and ransacked the city.

- D. Where I am ye cannot come.

Unbelievers cannot come there. Those who reject Jesus Christ cannot come.

Response: Confusion (vs.35, 36)

Note: Deaf ears cannot hear. Christ owes no man an explanation.

#### III. Statement number three by Jesus (vs.37-39)

Believe on me and I will give you water (Holy Spirit) unto eternal life.

Response

1. This is the prophet.
2. This is the Christ
3. This is not the Christ
4. Officers.
5. Pharisees.
6. Nicodemus