



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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John 7:25-36 Commentary New International Version

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further follow the verse-by-verse [*International Bible Study Commentary*](#). **Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further** will help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion: these hints are available on the *International Bible Study Commentary* website along with the *International Bible Lesson* that you may want to read to your class as part of your Bible study. You can discuss each week's commentary and lesson at the [*International Bible Study Forum*](#).

(John 7:25) At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill?”

At the Festival, some in the crowd realized that their leaders were trying to kill Jesus. Others thought Jesus was crazy or demon possessed to think and express such an idea about someone wanting to kill him (see John 7:20). Wherever Jesus taught and worked miracles, people in the crowds had different opinions about Him the more He taught about himself and His Father in heaven. Even today, many will give Jesus credit for being a prophet or a

great moral teacher; but, if His claims about himself were false, then He was neither. Either Jesus is the Messiah, or He is not. By His teaching, Jesus made it abundantly clear that He was the Messiah, and He proved it with His compassionate healings, signs, miracles and teaching.

(John 7:26) Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah?

The unbiased and teachable people thoroughly weighed the evidence before drawing their conclusions about Jesus. Some concluded that since Jesus was teaching openly and had not been arrested, the religious authorities had concluded that Jesus was the Messiah. However, the authorities were concerned about a possible riot if they arrested Jesus. Still, they also saw Jesus as a threat to their power and wealth; therefore, they refused to honestly weigh the evidence Jesus gave that He was the Messiah.

(John 7:27) But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.”

Those in the crowd thought they knew where Jesus came from—He came from Nazareth in Galilee. Some knew that according to the prophets the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, but they probably did not know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The popular expectation (not biblical expectation) was the Messiah would suddenly appear and prove with signs and wonders and miracles that he was the

Messiah. They supposed that because the Messiah was to come suddenly that no one would know where he was from. Popular expectation did not include the idea that the Messiah was the divine Son of God as Jesus revealed himself to be. Jesus did not fit popular expectations, but Jesus did fulfill the prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures about the coming of the Messiah. Similarly, today there are many popular expectations about the return of Christ that are not biblical.

(John 7:28) 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,

Knowing the crowd was of a divided opinion, Jesus taught loudly enough for all to hear the truth; then, people could make their judgments about Him based on His words—not the opinions of others in the crowd or the falsehoods of the religious authorities. On the one hand, they knew Jesus’ earthly origin (where He was raised in Galilee). On the other hand, based on Jesus’ teachings and signs, many did not suppress what they knew to be true about Jesus to keep living in sin; rather, they believed in His heavenly origin and turned from their sins. [Study Jesus’ teaching about himself and consider Romans 1:18-22. Think about why some refused to believe in Jesus despite the evidence He provided.] Jesus did not wake up one morning and decide He would try to be the Messiah and then plan what

He would do to achieve His personal goals. The crowd and the religious authorities believed that only God, the LORD, was “true;” therefore, they knew Jesus was claiming that God had sent Him. [“True” is like “Good.” In Mark 10:18, Jesus told the rich man who called Him, “Good Teacher,” “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.” Jesus was good and true because He was the Son of God.] The crowd knew sin and falsehood were a part of every person’s life. Jesus claimed God, the LORD, the Person who “is true” sent Him. Later, Jesus declared that He was the Truth. He claimed He was the divine, sinless, truthful, good Person His Father sent into the world (see John 3:16 & 14:6). Finally, though the crowd and authorities knew some things about the LORD, Jesus told them they did not know God. If they had known God, the LORD, they would have known that His Father had sent Him.

(John 7:29) but I know him because I am from him and he sent me.”

Because Jesus is the Person He said He was, the perfect Son of God, Jesus personally knew God, His Father. No human being except Jesus could honestly claim that He knew God personally, that He came directly from God, and that God had personally sent Him from heaven into the world with a divine mission. Furthermore, Jesus knew that if those He spoke to knew God, they would believe Him and believe in Him.

(John 7:30) At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.

Because Jesus claimed to be divinely sent from God, the authorities knew they had to arrest Jesus to end the speculations about Him and to convince those who were believing in Jesus that they were mistaken and Jesus was indeed crazy or possessed by a demon. However, no matter how hard they tried, they could not arrest Jesus until it was according to God's plan and perfect timing. Remember Psalm 91:11, that the devil quoted to tempt Jesus in Matthew 4:6. Now read and consider how Psalm 91:9-16 was a promise to Jesus that His Father fulfilled and a promise to all God's children.

(John 7:31) Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, "When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?"

Jesus performed "signs," did "works" of compassion, taught with authority, and could not be arrested by the religious leaders at that time. Therefore, John wrote that "many" believed in Him and Jesus increasingly became a threat to the religious authorities. Many believed primarily because of what Jesus did; His works substantiated what He taught. Jesus performed good works and gave signs as good and sufficient reasons for people to believe in Him. In John 10:37-39, we read what Jesus told people about His works, "If I am not doing the works of my Father, then

do not believe me. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.’ Then they tried to arrest him again, but he escaped from their hands.”

(John 7:32) The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.

After writing that the authorities failed to arrest Jesus, John gave the reason they sought to arrest Him. The crowd was talking about Him and many were believing in Him. The Romans appointed the chief priests at will; so, even though there was only one chief priest at a time, there were some in authority who had previously been chief priests. Together, along with the Pharisees, they sought to arrest Jesus. Since Jesus was teaching in the temple, they sent the temple police to arrest Jesus to show the crowd that He was not the Messiah—they failed in their efforts to arrest Him.

(John 7:33) Jesus said, “I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me.

Jesus told the crowd, the authorities, and the police, why they had no power over Him at that time. First, His ministry was nearing an end and the time would soon come when He would not be with them (He did not

explain the details). Second, Jesus was going back to God, who “is true,” who had sent Him. Of course, the Pharisees and priests did not believe that He would be going back to God. They thought He was demon possessed or crazy.

(John 7:34) You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come.”

After they crucified Jesus, they learned from Jesus’ disciples that He had risen from the dead, but no matter how hard they searched they never found Jesus or His body. Jesus only appeared to His eleven disciples and closest followers prior to His ascension into heaven. By His appearances to them, Jesus proved He had risen from the dead. Furthermore, because of sin and unbelief, the religious authorities and many in the crowd never saw Jesus again after they crucified Him, and they could not go to heaven where Jesus lived to see Him. Why did some people fail to seek and find Jesus, the Son of God, when He was in their midst? First, they were not seeking God or the truth about God with all their heart. In Jeremiah 29:13, the LORD said, “When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.” Second, there would come a time when they simply could not find Jesus, because He would no longer be near them. In Isaiah 55:6, the LORD said, “Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.” Third, Jesus could have been found then, and He can be found now by people who truly want to find Him, for Jesus promised in Matthew 7:7, “Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find;

knock, and the door will be opened for you.” Jesus was near them when He was speaking to them and He could have been found to be the Messiah, but a time came when Jesus was no longer near them, and they could not go where He was to find Him. If Jesus is not who He said He was, He could not be a true prophet, a wise philosopher, or a good moral teacher either.

(John 7:35) 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?”

The authorities and some in the crowd maintained their worldly, earthly vision, because they did not know God and would not believe in Jesus. The Dispersion was the name for the group of Jews that no longer lived in Judea but were scattered among the Greeks. The Dispersion began forcibly in 722 BC with the fall of the kingdom of Israel and forcibly again in 587 BC with the fall of Jerusalem and the kingdom of Judah. Jesus did go to the Dispersion through and with His apostles as described in the Book of Acts.

(John 7:36) 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?’”

Only after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven would His disciples, some in the crowd, and some religious leaders (such as Paul) learn what Jesus meant.

Believers know that Jesus cannot be seen walking upon earth as He did almost 2000 years ago, but He can make himself spiritually and personally known to those who believe in Him. Believers also know that Jesus is the only Way to be where Jesus is. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Many are unwilling to go to God the Way God has provided; therefore, they cannot be with Jesus or His Father in heaven.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. For what reasons did the religious authorities want to kill Jesus?
2. Why did the crowd think the authorities might believe that Jesus was the Messiah?
3. For what reason did Jesus say He came into our world?
4. Why did some in the crowd believe that Jesus was the Messiah?
5. Why did Jesus say some would search for Him but not find Him and they could not come where He was?

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