



Some Followed Jesus Gladly **John 7:45-53**

Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? The officers answered, Never man spake like this man (John 7:45-46—KJV).

The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, “Why did you not bring Him?” The officers answered, “Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks” (John 7:45-46—NASB).

Then the temple police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why did you not arrest him” The police answered, “Never has anyone spoken like this!” (John 7:45-46—NRSV).

As Jesus brought the kingdom of God near to the people and demonstrated the compassion and mercy of God by healing the sick and teaching the truth in Jerusalem, many in the crowd came to believe that Jesus was either the prophet (who would precede the Messiah) or the Messiah. In response to Jesus and to retain their political and religious power over the people, the chief priests (who were Sadducees) and the Pharisees wanted to kill Jesus; so, they sent the temple police to arrest Him. Though they knew the law of God and expected others to obey the law according to their restrictions, these elite leaders had not planned to follow the law of God themselves. They had planned to stir up a crowd to stone

Jesus without a trial, as they would later stir up a crowd to stone Stephen. Failing to stir up the crowd, they sent the temple police to arrest Jesus and kill Him without a trial. When the temple police failed to arrest Jesus and reported, “Never has anyone spoken like this!” they sneered at the police, called them deceived, and proudly proclaimed that none of the elite believed in Jesus. When Nicodemus reminded them that the law required them to have a trial, they sneered at him and said, “Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you?” Then, with even greater disdain for those they called, “The People of the Land,” they said the crowd was accursed because they did not know the law! No wonder the people followed Jesus gladly!

Thinking Further

1. Why did the temple police not arrest Jesus? Give at least two reasons.
2. What accusation did the Pharisees make against the temple police?
3. What are some indications that the Pharisees were arrogant and proud?
4. Why do you think Nicodemus said what he did?
5. Give two examples of where the Pharisees were wrong.

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