

The Gospel of John

Shut Out of Heaven Forever (Part 1)

John 7:25-29, 36

INTRODUCTION:

Open your Bible now to the seventh chapter of John. We come back to a day in the life of our Lord. There are huge chunks of the Gospel of John that focus on one day or one week. This is one of those. It is mid-week. It is now six months until the spring Passover when Jesus will be crucified. We are into the last leg of his journey on earth, his ministry leading up to the cross.

Jesus arrived in Jerusalem at midweek. He was following the timing of His Father. He delayed His coming to avoid the hatred and intention of the leaders who sought to kill Him. Upon arrival there, He went immediately to the temple and began teaching. That is where we find Him when we come to our text.

All Stand and Read Scripture.

John 7:25-29,36 (NASB)

²⁵ So some of the people **of Jerusalem** were saying, “Is this not the man whom they are seeking to kill? ²⁶ Look, He is speaking publicly, and they are saying nothing to Him. The rulers do not really know that this is the Christ, do they? ²⁷ However, we know where this man is from; but whenever the Christ may come, no one knows where He is from.” ²⁸ Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, “You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. ²⁹ I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me.”...

³⁶ What is this statement that He said, ‘You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come?’”

Prayer

Notice verse 36.

“You will seek me and will not find me, and where I am, you cannot come.”

What does this statement mean?

It means that there may come a time in your life when you will seek me, and I won't be there. That's why the prophet Isaiah says,

Isaiah 55:6 (NASB)

⁶ Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.

There are many warnings all through the Old Testament and the New about waiting too long. Hell is, after all, **itself....truth** discovered too late.

Jesus makes a penetrating and powerful statement that has **two sides** to it.

1. "**You will seek me and not find me,**" which says that sinners will seek Him and not be able to find Him. There may come a time in your life when you will seek me, and I won't be available to you. We must seek the Lord while he is there
2. "**Where I am, you cannot come.**" Shut out of heaven. Shut out of heaven forever. . Hell will be a place where there will be a suffering for sin. It will be filled with resentment and bitterness. Hell will be a place of eternal regret without remedy. Everlasting remorse without hope. That's why there's weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth in the tormenting darkness.

You will seek me. What a horrible reality. You will not find me. Hell is not where Christ is forgotten. It is where He is unavailable.

A common belief is that God is basically good, and everybody who is **good** is going to go to heaven. We are all going to go to heaven. I am one of the good people, so I am going to go to heaven. That's how people think. This is the confusion that Satan will generate in one's mind. Just live a good life. If there is a God, he won't punish good works.

It's hard to imagine a more clear and devastating statement than this. You will seek me and you will not find me, and where I am, you cannot come.

We are not saved by our good works no matter how hard we try to help others. Our salvation comes only from Jesus and we must seek Him while He is still available to us.

There is no hierarchy of condemned people. Without the saving grace of Jesus, Hell will be the eternal abode of the people who do not know Jesus. The ardent haters, the rejecters, the hard workers, as well as the confused will all face eternity separated from God.

So let's break this passage into those component parts and look first of all at the confusion of the people which will be the message for today, and then next week, Lord willing, at the rejection from the rulers, and then at the exclusion by the Savior.

BODY:

I. THE CONFUSION OF THE CROWD.

There is no mistaking the attitude of the people here. They're confused.

John 7:25 (NASB)

²⁵ So **some of the people of Jerusalem** "Is this not the man whom they are seeking to kill?"

When you compare this verse with verses 19 and 20 there seems to be a contradiction.

John 7:19b-20 (NASB)

¹⁹...Why do you seek to kill Me?" ²⁰The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who seeks

to kill You?"

How can the crowd in verses 19 and 20 ask "Who seeks to kill You?" and in verse 25 be asking, "Is this not the man whom they're seeking to kill?" The distinguishing mark is how John identifies the two groups of people. Remember, this is taking place in Jerusalem at the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths where all Jewish men were required to attend. At this point the Jews are dispersed and are living in many different regions. Some have travelled many miles to be there. So there are, in a sense, two different groups of people attending this feast. Those who were from Berea and Galilee and all the gentile areas that had collected for this feast and those who actually live in Jerusalem. The people of Jerusalem are well acquainted with their leaders. Jerusalem is a small, confined place. They know the attitude of the leaders. They know the Jewish leaders want to kill Jesus.

It was well known to them, but the crowd of people outside of Jerusalem did not have that knowledge. So John is very careful to say "**the crowd**" was not aware of their intent but some of "**the people of Jerusalem**" understood that the leaders wanted Jesus dead.

II. THE CONFUSION OF THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM.

So the crowd was confused as to why Jesus thought someone was seeking to kill Him.

Then the people from Jerusalem were also confused.

John 7:26a (NASB)

²⁶ Look, He is speaking publicly, and they are saying nothing to Him.

They're confused. Why? Because He's in the temple. They know the Jewish leaders want Him dead and they're letting Him teach, and nobody is stopping Him. Why are they allowing Him to teach? Why don't they seize Him and execute Him if that's what they want? It's their space. It's their temple. It's their territory. And they are in charge.

Jesus was acting just as **Proverbs 28:1** says the righteous will act when facing persecution...

Proverbs 28:1 (NASB)

²⁸ The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the righteous are bold as a lion.

He's teaching about salvation and the kingdom. He is still publicly claiming to be the Son of God that came down from heaven. In the minds of the rulers, blasphemous claims. Why don't they stop Him? So the people of Jerusalem are also confused.

Then this thought comes to their mind.

John 7:26b (NASB)

²⁶ ...The rulers do not really know that this is the Christ, do they?

This is a question that comes into their mind. The leaders have not decided that He actually is the Messiah have they? "No, it can't be!" You might wonder **why would they ever think that?**

John 7:31 (NASB)

³¹ But **many of the crowd believed in Him**; and they were saying, "When the Christ comes, He will not perform more signs than those which this man has, will He?"

If they want Him dead, why aren't they stopping Him? So a faint remote thought enters their minds, **have they decided He's actually the Messiah?** They're not doing anything! Maybe all of the signs that He is doing is finally making an impact on their belief!

But the thought fades away almost as soon as it enters their minds.

III. THE CONFUSION OF THE JEWISH LEADERS.

John 7:27 (NASB)

²⁷ However, we know where this man is from; but whenever the Christ may come, no one knows where He is from."

A popular notion had developed among the Jews that the Messiah would have some kind of a grand entrance. They drew it out of a couple passages. One would be...

Malachi 3:1 (NASB)

³ "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

They believed that the Messiah would arrive something like a bolt out of heaven. That He would appear in the temple, and it would be the Messiah."

A second verse is found in Isaiah where the Messiah is being described.

Isaiah 53:8 (KJV)

⁸ ...Who shall declare his generation?...

In other words, who would know anything about His family?

They misinterpreted both of those passages and came up with this popular kind of notion that the Messiah would have some kind of supernatural arrival at the temple and they wouldn't know anything about His family. So this cannot be the Messiah. We know about His family and we know He came from Nazareth. Jesus did not conform to their preconceived ideas concerning the Messiah. He didn't come suddenly from heaven to the temple. This can't be the anointed one. This can't be the Messiah.

You may ask, "**Well wait a minute, what about Bethlehem?**" Although some people believed that the Messiah's origin would not be known, others believed that the Old Testament did give the origin. And they are right.

Remember when Jesus was born, Herod had heard that Jesus was going to be the King of the Jews and he wanted to find Him...

Matthew 2:4-6 (NASB)

⁴ Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: (this is from Micah 5:2) ⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; For out of you shall

come forth a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.”

This is their confusion. Some thought it had to be Bethlehem, and they were right. Micah 5:2 said that He would come from Bethlehem, but not Nazareth. Oh, they could have checked the records at the temple that He had actually been born in Bethlehem as they did for Herod. And they could have checked His genealogy and determined He was a descendant of David.

All they were really looking for was justification for their rejection because He didn't fit their preconception of Him.

This is the danger of not looking at scripture as a whole. It was evident that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. Their interpretation that He would arrive like a flash of lightning in the temple did not agree with other scripture. We must be careful to tie scripture together in order to arrive at an accurate understanding.

This is the problem with those who believe that we are saved by "faith only". They only look at those verses that agree with that understanding and ignore other passages that talk of the purpose for baptism and the necessity to surrender ourselves fully to Christ.

Then Jesus responds to them in an interesting way. He yells at the top of His voice so everyone can hear.

John 7:28 (NASB)

²⁸ Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, “You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know.

How are you to interpret that?

I would interpret it ironically. So you think you know me and where I am from?

This is Jesus saying, “The very idea that in your unbelief and confusion, you know me is ridiculous. **You don't know me!** You don't know where I am came from, and you don't know Who sent me.”

John 8:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ So they were saying to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.”

Oh, yes, you know the family in Nazareth, the town of Nazareth, but you don't know me. I have not come of myself. I haven't risen on my own ambition. I'm not the product of the family or the town of Nazareth. I didn't reach this position by my own desire, crafting my own way in life. You may know my public deeds. You may have heard my words, but you have no idea Who I am. You have no idea where I came from. You have no idea Who sent me, and you have no knowledge of the one that you claim to know.

The problem, of course, is spelled out in...

John 8:43 (NASB)

⁴³ Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is because you cannot hear My word.*

That's the whole point. You want to serve the devil who is your father. Thus you cannot hear the truth. He is a liar and a father of lies. So because I speak the truth, you don't believe me.

Why? Because you are caught up in a kingdom of lies. You can't know the truth. You can't believe the truth.

So they're saying proudly, we know where this man is from.

Matthew 13:54-56 (NASB)

⁵⁴ He came to His hometown and *began* teaching them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where *did* this man *get* this wisdom and *these* miraculous powers? ⁵⁵Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then *did* this man *get* all these things?"

So they are once again confused. He can't be the Messiah. Jesus says, "You don't know anything." Just knowing a few details about my life on earth that you can see with your own eyes does not reveal Who I really am.

"You don't know me, and you don't know the one who sent me."

John 7:29 (NASB)

²⁹ I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me."

This is the supreme indictment of Israel. They prided themselves on being the people of God who knew God, and He says, "You don't know God."

CONCLUSION:

John 8:21 (NASB)

²¹ Then He said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come."

There will come a time when He will be shutting you out of heaven forever. Confusion is not the place to be. There is no greater warning. You will die in your sins unless you believe in me. Seek the Lord while He may be found.

The Family of God.