

The Gospel of John

Shut Out of Heaven Forever (Part 2)

John 7:30-36

INTRODUCTION:

Open your Bible now to the seventh chapter of John. We find Jesus teaching in the temple midweek during the feast of the tabernacles.

The **Jews from outside of Jerusalem** are confused why Jesus would think someone was wanting to kill him. They would not know the thoughts of the Jewish leaders.

The **people from Jerusalem** know the Jewish leaders are seeking to kill Him and are confused as to why the Jewish leaders are allowing Him to teach in their temple. They briefly consider that maybe they are finally believing that He is the Messiah.

The **Jewish leaders** are confused because Jesus is not meeting their expectations of what the Messiah was going to do when He came to this earth. Some believed He would miraculously appear in the temple. That He would have no earthly family. They knew His family. They knew Mary and Joseph and His brothers and sisters. So in their minds, He can't be the Messiah.

They were all rejecting Jesus due to their confusion. They were not willing to let the scriptures or the teachings of Jesus change their preconceptions. So they considered Him to be the ultimate blasphemer that deserved death.

All Stand and Read Scripture.

John 7:30-36 (NASB)

³⁰ So they were seeking to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. 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?"

³² The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to seize Him. ³³ Therefore Jesus said, "For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me. ³⁴ You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come." ³⁵ The Jews then said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? He is not intending to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks, is He? 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.”

The common belief in the world is that God is basically good, and everybody who is **good** is going to go to heaven. We’re 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. Just live a good life. If there is a God, he won't punish good works.

The scriptures reveal to us that 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.

Last week we examined the confusion of the people. Today, Lord willing, we will look at the rejection from the rulers and the exclusion by the Savior.

BODY:

I. THE REJECTION FROM THE RULERS.

Let’s turn to the Jewish rulers for a moment. From the general confusion to the rejection from the rulers.

John 7:30 (NASB)

³⁰ So they were seeking to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

So Jesus is teaching in the temple. The rulers are convinced that Jesus is an imposter and neither the scripture nor Jesus Himself can change their minds. The problem with believing was that in order to receive what Jesus offered, you had to accept the indictment, and they hated the indictment.

The rulers now know the people are expecting them to act because the people are wondering why are they allowing Him to keep teaching. So in order to justify their rejection in their minds they always fell back to their preconceived beliefs instead of examining the scripture for truth.

John 6:42 (NASB)

⁴² They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, ‘I have come down out of heaven?’”

We know Him. We know about Him. We know his family.”

John 7:41 (NASB)

⁴¹ Others were saying, “This is the Christ.” Still others were saying, “Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He?”

Then there were some who recognized that the Scripture said the Messiah would come as a descendent from David and from Bethlehem, the village where David was.

John 7:42-43 (NASB)

⁴² Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and

from Bethlehem, the village where David was?”⁴³ So a division occurred in the crowd because of Him.

The people wanted somebody to lead them. The leaders must make a decision. Either accept Jesus as the Messiah or get rid of Him. So they finally step in, and they want to seize Him. But no man lays hands on Him. Nobody touches Him.

Why would that be the case? Well, from a human viewpoint the officers sent out to seize Him may have thought, “**He is very powerful.**” And they would have been right because He attacked the temple and vacated the place at the beginning of His ministry.

He had supernatural power over demons, which means He would have supernatural power over them. He had supernatural power over disease and deformity and all of that. There was also, I think, a measure of fear and respect. He commanded and demanded respect. So from a human viewpoint, they’re paralyzed, and the crowd is mixed.

From the leaders perspective, there were people who were very open-minded and are being persuaded by the power of His words. The leaders do not want to start a riot in the middle of the feast.

That might be the **human** explanation, but the **divine** explanation is the only one the Bible gives us. The reason no man laid hands on Him was because **His hour had not come.** They were restrained by the invisible hand of God. I don’t even know if they thought through the process. They couldn’t act because they were under divine control. The invisible hand of God controls everything that happens in the universe.

They thirsted for His blood and they were determined to kill Him. Yet, by invisible restraint from above, they were powerless to do anything. Not a hair of His head could be touched without divine permission because God is in control of absolutely everything. Not only in **His** life, but in **ours** as well. So they’re paralyzed.

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?”

The crowd is starting to lean in a certain direction. In the midst of their confusion, they are beginning to consider that maybe He **is** the Messiah. After all, nobody will ever perform more miracles than He has done will they? In fact, they have never known anyone who could perform miracles.

Their belief was, more than likely, a noncommittal belief as we have previously seen.

John 2:23-24 (NASB)

²³ Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. ²⁴ But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men,

This is like the faith of the disciples who followed Him and followed Him and followed Him, and then eventually abandoned Him. This is a kind of temporary faith.

John 6:64-66 (NASB)

⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who

they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

⁶⁶ As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

There is nothing here to indicate that this was some permanent, genuine, saving faith, although in some cases, that's possible. But the leaders see this, and they are really concerned now because the crowd is starting to buy into the fact that He might actually be the Messiah based upon all of these amazing miracles.

John 7:32 (NASB)

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

The confused crowd is muttering. If you want to use a contemporary word, the word would be "**trending**". The crowd was trending toward embracing Him. So finally, the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to seize Him.

John 7:45-48 (NASB)

⁴⁵ The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" ⁴⁶ The officers answered, "Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks." ⁴⁷ The Pharisees then answered them, "You have not also been led astray, have you? (So they see the crowd moving in the direction of believing in Jesus, and their solution is found in the next verse.) ⁴⁸ No one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he?"

The **crowd**, what do **they** know? This crowd doesn't know the law is accursed. Don't follow Jesus. Follow us! The soldiers come back empty handed but the rulers remain locked into rejecting Him.

And then in verse 33, Jesus speaks. This may have been to everyone. This may have been to the officers who came to arrest Him. This may have been to the leaders. We don't know. It was most likely **to the people** but with a particular emphasis on the officers who came to arrest Him because of what He says.

John 7:33 (NASB)

³³ Therefore Jesus said, "For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me.

This is a sad, heart wrenching, statement. This is Jesus saying that He will not be with them much longer. Before long I will be out of your hair. I will be out of your life. You are not going to have to deal with me much longer.

This takes us to the final point going from **the confusion of the people**, to **the rejection from the rulers**, and now to **the exclusion by the Savior**.

II. THE EXCLUSION BY THE SAVIOR.

There is a tone of sorrow and loneliness here. Jesus knows that in just a short six

months He will die on the cross. This is God's son, loving a world that hates Him. Loving a nation that despises Him. He now starts to count the days, the weeks, before He is leaving this world. I am going back to the One Who sent Me. You do not have to deal with me much longer.

John 7:34-35a (NASB)

³⁴ You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come." ³⁵ The Jews then said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him?..."

Forty years later, Romans came and ransacked the city. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were massacred. I wonder how many of them sought Him that day without finding Him and recalled what Jesus had said "You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come?" Heaven is not for everybody. Heaven is only for those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and no one else.

The Jews in their rejection mock His statement.

John 7:35b-36 (NASB)

...He is not intending to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks, is He? ³⁶ What is this statement that He said, 'You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come?'"

This is a joke in their minds. He is not going to leave Jerusalem and go out and talk to the Jews that are dispersed in the gentile world and maybe even talk to the gentiles is He? That would have been an outrage to them. They didn't want their religion handed over to the low-life Jewish people, let alone gentiles.

They are faithless fools who mock the son of God. All they can do is offer sarcasm based on stupid ignorance and willful rejection.

But this one statement continues to haunt them. "You will seek me and not find me. Where I am, you cannot come." That statement applies both to the confused and to the rejecters. The end result is the same regardless if you reject Christ out of confusion or reject Him out of hatred.

CONCLUSION:

I want to close with this passage.

John 8:21-22 (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."

It is the same statement. "You will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come." **Shut out of heaven forever!**

²² So the Jews were saying, "Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come?'"

The Jews thought suicide was a sin that sent people to hell, so maybe He's going to kill Himself, and we will never go there. But that's not what He meant at all.

²⁷ They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father.

Obviously Jesus was telling them that He was going back to heaven to be with His Father. This will be a place that they cannot come.” Then in verse 24 He gives the reason.

John 8:24-25 (NASB)

²⁴ Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.” ²⁵ So they were saying to Him, “Who are You?” Jesus said to them, “What have I been saying to you *from the beginning?*”

Unless you **believe** that I am the one I claim to be, you will die in your sins!

By the way, these are religious people. This is all taught to us in Matthew 25 in the **Parable of the Ten Virgins**. Remember that?

All of the ten virgins were depicted as religious people. They were all gathered together for the coming of the bride groom and the great wedding. Five of the virgins did not have oil. They were religious and had all the moral values. But they did not have life from God.

They were not His. They were not true believers. And when the bride groom came, the door was shut, and they were shut out of heaven forever. That is the message of the parable.

So the warning of our Lord here is a serious warning. There will come a time when you will seek me, and you will not find me. You’re going to be shut out of heaven forever. Where I am, you will never be. There is no greater warning!

If you do not believe in Jesus, you will die in your sins. None of the good things that you have done in this life will have any value unless you believe in Him. Seek the Lord while He may be found.

The Family of God.