

“Those Who Can’t See Jesus in the Spirit Try to Kill Him”

John 7: 32-52

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I. Introduction

John 5:16-18: So, because Jesus was doing these things (healing) on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

John 6:44-45 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me.

II. The Lesson: ” Those Who Can’t See Jesus in the Spirit Try to Kill Him”

1. **v. 32.** That’s it, enough is enough; we must put an end to this, arrest Him!

The Jewish leaders were already fed up with the acts of Jesus and their inability to out-wit Him; His blatant disregard of their laws regarding the Sabbath had already caused much turmoil within their ranks. Now the people who have come to participate in the festival are speaking of Him as a good man and some even believing that He might be the Messiah. Though they put forth efforts to arrest Jesus, the time of His glorification had already been decided by the Father and was now some 6 months into the future so any efforts made now to harm Jesus were futile.

2. **vv. 33-36**. Heaven or Hell? Your choice!

Jesus, being aware that His time had not yet come but was to come speaks as if preparing the people for a time when He would suffer, die, be resurrected and ascend to the Father. But more than preparation, Jesus issues a warning. Those that do not believe in Him as the Christ shall not be afforded the opportunity of entering the Kingdom of God to which Jesus is going, but will die in their sin (John 8:21-24). This message that Jesus gives from a Spiritual sense, in that no one shall ascend to the Father except the Son (John 3:13) and though they continue to look for the promised Messiah (Jesus) they will not find Him because they will have missed His coming.

3. **vv. 37-39**. Jesus brought the feast to a fitting climax by offering to satisfy all who, in their spiritual need, came to him for help. He would work a life-giving change within them. For the first seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, there was a jubilant procession to the pool of Siloam, from which water was brought in a gold pitcher, to be poured out on the altar in the temple. This was done in honor of the water that God brought from the “rock” in the wilderness, which was symbolic of Christ himself (1 Corinthians 10:4). However on the eighth day no water was drawn. What perfect timing Jesus has! “Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink.” This “Living Water” is a depiction of the Blessed Holy Spirit who would dwell in believers and seal them for salvation (Ephesians 1:13–14). It is the ministry of the Spirit, flowing out of a heart redeemed by God, that blesses those who believe and, through the believer the life and light of Jesus are brought to the world.

4. **vv. 40-44**. “Prophet, Messiah, Imposter...Who is He?”

This is an excellent example of the divisive result of Jesus’ teaching and preaching. There has been and will always be division regarding the legitimacy

of Jesus as the long awaited Messiah. We must remember that Jesus did not come down from heaven, cloth Himself in flesh, endure suffering and death on the cross with the thought that all would readily receive the message of the Gospel and believe in Him. Jesus did not “go along to get along.” Instead, His message was and is one of division to a world steeped in sin and traditionalism. While some will believe, others will not. But, why is this so? John 6:44-45 is our answer. Those that come to believe are drawn or prompted by the Holy Spirit of God to trust Jesus. It is the same Spirit that opens our eyes to see the truth of the teachings of Christ.

The Jewish leaders in our passages today had no doubt spent countless hours reading and studying the scriptures but they never knew God (7:29). While our intellect is good and necessary, we cannot rely on our intellect for the salvation of our souls. The knowledge of scripture is first expressed and understood intellectually but, without the aid of the Holy Spirit, a true knowledge of God cannot be achieved.

5. **vv. 45-52**. When the guards return without having arrested Jesus the Jewish leadership’s reaction is almost belligerent. The guards themselves heard the words of Jesus and appear to have been held in awe. The chief priests and Pharisees resort to insults due to their lack of control. Do they even care that they just included the guards in their saying that the mob (those listening to Jesus) were cursed (ignorant). And when one of their own calls them out on the carpet (Nicodemus) because their very own law required justice be administered they respond with a un-truth. Their anger makes them tell a lie. The Prophets Jonah, Elijah, and Nahum were all from Galilee.