

Wanted: Who is the Real Jesus?
Answering Questions About the Real Messiah
John 7:1-31

If I could single out one specific book that clearly shows and shares the real identity of Jesus Christ, it would be the gospel of John. John's clear objective in this gospel book was stated in chapter 20 verse 31 "but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." The religious leaders are starting to see Jesus as an outlaw, in fact we see in these verses that his own family didn't believe yet that He was the Messiah. Growing up I watch a lot of "Gun Smoke." Matt Dillon and Deputy Marshal Clayton Greenwood would find themselves protecting the town from the most wanted outlaws of the wild west. They would come to know these outlaws very well by the end of the episode. We can ask these questions about the real Messiah and come to know that this outlaw to the world is in fact the real Savior that we have all been waiting for.

Why is Jesus not going to the feast? (John 7:1-13) Verse 8 answers this question. ***"...I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come."*** Verse 5 makes it clear that his brothers didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah and that He still had more to do before the cross. This "Feast of Booths" was the longest festival of the Jewish year. It happened in early fall following the Day of Atonement. It was to celebrate God's provision for the Israelites in the wilderness. We see this festival established in Leviticus 23:33-44. The answer to this question is that Jesus didn't do anything that God the Father didn't command Him to do. It wasn't His time.

How is Jesus all knowing? (John 7:14-18) The doctrine that God is omniscient or all knowing becomes clear in these verses. The message Jesus was teaching was from God. Jesus used the phrase ***"the one who sent me"*** ten times throughout the gospel of John to share that He is being obedient to His calling. Verses 14-15 answer this question. He does not have any formal education to our knowledge, yet God the Father gives Him the information that He wants relayed. It reminds me of Acts 4:13 ***"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus."*** The reason Jesus is all knowing is because He is God the Son and He is doing the will of God the Father. Listen to 1 John 3:19-20 ***"By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything."*** Jesus both knew and taught God's Word, and He applied it. Let's be careful to utilize the knowledge of God's Word for application.

Matt Carter suggests that "often we confuse Bible knowledge with actual spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity means we're submitting our will to the Father's will. Spiritual maturity means I value assembling with God's people, I place the needs of others before my own, and

I stop grumbling and complaining about what I don't like. Don't confuse the accumulation of Bible knowledge with a growing love for Christ and submission to his will."

Who is wanting to kill Jesus? (John 7:19-24) The religious leaders of Israel wanted to kill Jesus. Who killed Jesus? It was God the Father that killed Jesus so that you and I could have eternal life, forgiveness of our sins, and everlasting peace. Listen to Isaiah 53:10 ***"Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand."*** If Jesus were a phony, He would have tried to avoid death on the cross at all cost, but He was doing the will of His Father. As a reminder, Jesus is who He said he was and Peter affirms that in verse 68 as we looked at last week.

Who is the real Jesus? (John 7:25-31) Back in verse 12 some say that Jesus is a good man; others say he's a deceiver. In verse 20 some think he is demon possessed, while others believe that He is the Messiah. The question that the crowd is wanting to know, Is Jesus the Messiah? We must answer that same question this morning and for the rest of our lives. See if we truly believe, we will do His will. Sure, it will be hard, uncomfortable, and even seem impossible, but if it's guided by the Holy Spirit, it will happen.

a. He is the One sent by God. (vv. 28-29)

b. He is the One to bring salvation at the appointed time. (vv. 30-31)