

(25) Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, “Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? And here He is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to Him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ? But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where He comes from.”

(28) So Jesus proclaimed, as He taught in the temple, “You know Me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of My own accord. He who sent Me is true, and Him you do not know. I know Him, for I come from Him, and He sent Me.” So, they were seeking to arrest Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. Yet many of the people believed in Him. They said, “When the Christ appears, will He do more signs than this man has done?”

(32) The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest Him. Jesus then said, “I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to Him who sent Me. You will seek Me and you will not find Me. Where I am you cannot come.”

(35) The Jews said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? What does He mean by saying, ‘You will seek Me and you will not find me,’ and, ‘Where I am you cannot come’?”

(37) On the last day of the Feast, the Great Day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

(40) When they heard these words, some of the people said, “This really is the Prophet.” Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?” So, there was a division among the people over Him. Some of them wanted to arrest Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

(45) The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why did you not bring Him?” The officers answered, “No one ever spoke like this man!” The Pharisees answered them, “Have you also been deceived? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the Law is accursed.” Nicodemus, who had gone to Him before, and who was one of them, said to them, “Does our Law judge a man without first giving Him a hearing and learning what He does? They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee.”

Think on these things:

- 1) The crowd in Jerusalem said they knew where Jesus came from. Where did they believe He came from (v.41)? Others in the crowd knew their Biblical prophesy (v.42). Where was Christ supposed to come from? Was this true of Jesus (see Matthew 2:1)?

Where? **Galilee. He was known as “Jesus of Nazareth”, a small town in Galilee.**

Christ’s birthplace (Micah 5:2)? **Christ is to come from Bethlehem, a small town in Judea, also regarded as the city (hometown) of King David.**

Jesus’ birthplace (Matthew 2:1)? **Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the Roman census**

2) If you were there that day, would Jesus' words in vs. 28-29 & 33-36 have confused you as it did the crowd? Why?

Yes. Most of us in the crowd would have known that Jesus came from the north, from the small village of Nazareth in Galilee. Saying, "Him who sent Me is true, and Him you do not know. I know Him, for I come from Him, and He sent Me," didn't "fit" Jesus --- perceived as the carpenter's (Joseph's) son. Where would He go that no other Jew could follow (v.35)? They were not able to follow (understand) His sayings here.... "Who" did He mean sent Him?

3) Reading vs. 33-34, where was Jesus going that no one could find Him? (See John 14:1-6). Where is Jesus today? Consider Acts 1:9-11 and 7:54-57; Ephesians 1:16-23; and 1 Peter 3:21b-22).

Going? **According to John 14, Jesus was going to His Father's house to prepare places for His followers. He promised to come back and get us. Jesus is the "way" between God the Father and all mankind --- no one can come to the Father except through Him.**

Today? **Jesus is in heaven, described as being seated at 'the right hand of the Father,' far above all angels and rule and authority and power and dominion. He awaits His return to claim us.**

4) If you believe in Jesus, how would you explain vs.38-39, i.e., 'out of his heart will flow rivers of living water' to a non-believing person? How does the Holy Spirit quench the "believer's thirst," in the way Jesus is meaning? Consult Ezekiel 36:27; Joel 2:28; and Romans 8:5-17, 26-27.

To a non-believer? **'Rivers of living water within me' speaks to God taking up residence in my life as an ever-present life source to renew my soul and faith daily. He is God in the form of the Holy Spirit, my constant companion and guide to love, serve, and understand God.**

Believer's thirst? **Whatever my soul needs or properly longs for, the Holy Spirit provides. He empowers my spiritual life, as water does the physical life. He confirms me as God's child, prays according to God's Will, and brings immortality to my mortal body.**

5) V.44 says the crowd was divided over Jesus, some saying He must be the Christ, and others thinking He was a deceiver who needed to be arrested and put away. Which position did the temple police and Nicodemus take? Which position did the Pharisees take?

Temple Police & Nicodemus? **Both leaned towards listening carefully to what Jesus taught.**

Pharisees? **The Pharisees saw Him as a false teacher, religious deceiver, and trouble maker, who needed to be put away (killed).**

6) It was said in the crowd earlier (v.41) --- whom the Pharisees did not respect (v.49) --- and again to Nicodemus in v.52. What was the easy way to dismiss Jesus as not being God's Christ?

Jesus of Nazareth came from Galilee. The Christ comes from Bethlehem in Judea. He's not the Christ foretold by prophecy.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: