

GOSPEL OF JOHN
MISUNDERSTANDING CHRIST-PT 1
JOHN 7:25-32

Introduction

Sometimes folks misunderstand what the term “*Christ*” means. Simply speaking, it is the translation of the Greek form of the word that means the same as the Hebrew word translated as “*Messiah*” in the Old Testament.

Both “*Messiah*” in the O.T. and “*Christ*” in the N.T. mean “*anointed one.*”

The prophesied *Messiah* of the Old Testament would be sent by God and *anointed* to perform and do His will in the world. This *Messiah* would direct people back to God. He would rescue them from their oppressors.

The terms *Messiah* and *Christ* came to refer to the prophesied future Jewish king from the Davidic line, who will be “*anointed*”, to be king of God’s earthly kingdom, and rule the Jewish people during the *Messianic Age*.

Understand that in *Judaism*, the *Messiah* was not and is not considered to be God or a pre-existent divine Son of God as Jesus is. He is considered to be a great political leader that has descended from King David.

The Bible plainly teaches us that *Messianic prophecies* were fulfilled in the birth, ministry, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and that He will return to fulfill the rest of *Messianic prophecies*.

Still, there are those who question if Jesus truly is *the Christ, the Messiah*?

When Jesus decided to go up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles here, He knew the people would begin to discuss Him and His ministry. There would be a lot of talk and speculation about who He was; whether He was simply a good teacher or perhaps the long awaited *Messiah*.

Let’s read the text we’ll be dealing with today:

READ: *John 7:25-32*

As Jesus began to appear publicly He naturally began to confront the Jewish leadership and the populace who wondered exactly who He was.

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I. WE SEE THE TALK ABOUT CHRIST—QUESTIONS, SPECULATIONS, AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS! (*Vs. 25-27*)

A. We See The Reality Of The Plot Against Jesus Christ! (*Vs 25*)

Last week we saw in *verse 19* that Jesus asked the Jewish leaders why they were going about to kill Him.

They answered with a DENIAL there in *Vs. 20* and even accused Jesus of having a devil for suggesting that they were doing such a thing!

But, they had messed up by talking about it! Gossip gets around doesn’t it? Especially seeing how Jerusalem at that time didn’t have anything like today to get their news from!

They got their news by the old-fashioned way that is still with us even today— WORD OF MOUTH! The fact that the rulers were wanting Jesus dead had reached the ears of the people of Jerusalem. (*Vs 25*)

If you’re planning on murdering someone, it might be best to keep that information private and not talk about it! [The rulers had 70 members + the great high priest (known as the *council* or the *Sanhedrin* which means “*assembly*”)] They obviously had a leak or two causing the word to spread!

B. We See The Speculation And Question That Arose Regarding Jesus Christ! (*Vs 26*)

Here we are told that Jesus was teaching **BOLDLY** in the Temple and the Jewish leaders were not only allowing Him to do that, but they were not saying anything to Him!

Their silence fueled SPECULATION and a QUESTION! The SPECULATION was that maybe the rulers had changed their mind and had really concluded that this Jesus character was indeed the very Christ (the Messiah)!

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Now understand that the folks in Jerusalem knew these Jewish rulers and their ways! They knew how they had responded in the past to any perceived threat to their way of life, their authority, or what they believed!

These guys were masters at getting the Romans or even others to do their dirty work for them and get rid of any nuisances!

So the gossip going around, mixed with the rulers appearing to be doing nothing as Jesus taught boldly in the Temple, made the street crowd voice a question about what this meant:

(Vs 26b) “Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?”

Now this voiced concern could easily have been interpreted by the rulers as a threat! Because when people begin to wonder, they also can formulate their own opinions, and opinions can become dangerous when they are contrary to those in charge!
The Pharisees wanted to control the opinions of the people!

C. We See The Misunderstanding That Arose Regarding Jesus Christ! (Vs 27)

Jesus baffled this crowd, because they thought that they knew Him already, but they really didn't. They were confused.

Many of them saw Him as being just a man like themselves or being like the Jewish rulers! However, Jesus was different in that He was making some outlandish claims about Himself in His bold teaching and He was backing it up with miracles.

When they said, *“We know this man whence he is”* they appear to have had some knowledge of Mary and Joseph and the talk surrounding them. We've seen others voice the same thing.

John 6:42 – “And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?”

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Now hearsay repeated often enough begins to be **believed** as being true! You've heard the phrase, *“Say something often enough and loud enough and people will eventually believe it.”* **It is an old propaganda tactic!**

Adolph Hitler is said to have said something very similar and proved it by using this tactic to rise to power in Germany! Be very careful because propaganda is still being used by the lamestream media and politicians on both sides to sway people!

Often today, we are NOT being told what we NEED to know but only what they WANT US to know!

These Jews thought that Jesus had to have a mother and a regular earthly father because that is what they were being told! (And that is how children come about!) Well, normally that is the case! Except for that pesky prophecy from Isaiah...
Isaiah 7:14 – “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Some probably knew Jesus was from Galilee and not from Jerusalem. And they probably had about the same idea as Nathanael had when Philip told Nathanael they had found the Messiah and He was Jesus of Nazareth! *John 1:46– “And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.”*

But what these people of Jerusalem THOUGHT THEY KNEW and THE TRUTH were two different things! They only knew from a combination of what they had HEARD mixed with a POPULAR but WRONG belief!

See, it was a popular belief that no one would know where the *Messiah* would come from! And since they THOUGHT they knew where Jesus was from, it obscured the truth!

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The crowds had seen for themselves the miracles of Jesus and heard the teachings of Jesus and they began to wonder who this man Jesus really was.

WE SEE THE TALK ABOUT CHRIST—QUESTIONS, SPECULATIONS, AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS!

II. WE SEE THAT JESUS KNEW BOTH WHO HE WAS AND WHERE HE CAME FROM AND THAT TRUTH WAS BEING DENIED BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF! (Vs. 28-29)

Jesus didn't have to **hear the whisperings and the rumor machine to know what men were saying of Him or to know what was on their hearts regarding Him!**

John 6:64—"But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him."

That's not because Jesus had "E. S. P." but because He was and is G-O-D! Amen!

The evidence for WHO Jesus is was as plain as it could possibly be! Jesus had told them in John 5:39—"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

The problem is, by and large, **the rulers were DENYING Who Jesus was because it posed a threat to them and their position!**

Let's pause here a minute and think about this as it relates to today! There is **AMPLE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE** for anyone to **EVALUATE** and come to the knowledge of the **TRUTH OF WHO JESUS IS!** (Some have even done all the work for you all you have to do is look at what their research and investigations revealed and the conclusions it brought them to! e.g. Josh McDowell and Lee Strobel.)

The problem, at least in our country, is that people **DENY** the truth!

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And for much the same reasons as the rulers of the Jews! It is because the **TRUTH IS INCONVENIENT—i.e. It poses a threat to the way they want to live their lives— both how they want to live them and what they want to get out of life! They think they have too much to lose if they believe on Jesus!**

However, the reality is that **WITHOUT CHRIST**, in the end, they **LOSE EVERYTHING** that they value in this life and then spend eternity in the lake of fire!

Mark 8:36—"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Job 1:21—"And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

1 Timothy 6:7—"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."

Back to our text... *Vs 28*

Jesus called these folks out for knowing Who He is and where He came from but denying it! And He called them out on the fact that they did not know His Heavenly Father!

The **crowds** may have wrongly assumed that Jesus was only a Galilean carpenter from the city of Nazareth. But the **rulers** had the **PROOF OF THE TRUTH AVAILABLE TO THEM while living in DENIAL of the TRUTH!**

Jesus is God Who became flesh to dwell among us and reveal unto us our Heavenly Father in addition to coming to provide salvation!

While God is true and reliable, His enemies are not. His enemies did not know God, or they thought they did but it was an erroneous view. Sadly, the same thing is seen in our day! Many think they know God, but they don't know Him like they think they do!

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Why is it folks are so quick to believe a lie rather than the TRUTH!?

They are more likely to read books, watch films, and TV specials that try to destroy and question the TRUTH found in God's Word rather than listen to His Word and they wind up being deceived! Sadly, the wrong conclusion can lead to severe consequences.

Well, we are told who is behind it:

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 – 3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

WE SEE THE TALK ABOUT CHRIST—QUESTIONS, SPECULATIONS, AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS!

WE SEE THAT JESUS KNEW BOTH WHO HE WAS AND WHERE HE CAME FROM AND THAT TRUTH WAS BEING DENIED BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF!

III. WE SEE THE RESULT OF JESUS' MIRACLES AND BOLD TEACHINGS! (Vs. 30-32) (Two things about this and we're done!)

A. It Caused The Rulers To Want To Kill Jesus Even More, But They Couldn't Touch Him Yet! (Vs. 30)

I like the fact that though they wanted to seize Him, they couldn't do it because it wasn't His time yet!

God was in control of even the day and time when Jesus would give His life for us! God was in control of THEIR time table!

Jesus' brothers nor his enemies could thwart the will of God!

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With all that is happening in the world right now, there are some Believers who are fretting and worrying about when Jesus is going to show up to call us home! But listen, all the fretting and worrying in the world WILL NOT affect God's time table!

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HE WILL COME IN HIS TIME! Just watch and pray! Amen!
No one can fight God's plan! Don't you worry, He has it all under control!

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*THE RESULT OF JESUS' MIRACLES AND BOLD TEACHINGS...
It Caused The Rulers To Want To Kill Jesus Even More, But They Couldn't Touch Him Yet!*

B. It Caused Many Of The People To Believe On Jesus— At Least To A Certain Extent! (Vs 31)

Many in the crowd began to believe that indeed Jesus must be the promised *Messiah!*

What they're saying here reflected their willingness to see Jesus' miracles and teaching as something special, but was it a belief unto salvation? I don't know, God alone knows!

Was their belief tempered by their question? It almost seems as if they're saying— "*We're going to believe on Jesus as the Messiah unless someone shows up and does more than Him.*"

Well, at least they were more on the BELIEF side than the Pharisees!

When the Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about Jesus, then the chief priests and the Pharisees got "*antsy*" and sent officers (temple guards) to arrest Jesus. (Vs 32)

This was a wasted effort—we'll see the Officers hear Jesus for themselves and they come back empty handed. (Vs 44-45)

Conclusion

So, have you gotten your questions answered so that you have properly believed on Jesus as the Christ, the Promised Messiah? I hope so! If so, are you helping others see the truth about Who Jesus is and what He can do for them? (That is our calling /commission as Believers! Time is short!)