

## **Responses to Jesus' Messianic Claims**

### **John 7:30-52**

30 Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. 31 And many of the people believed in Him, and said, "When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?"

32 The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him. 33 Then Jesus said to them, "I shall be with you a little while longer, and then I go to Him who sent Me. 34 You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come."

35 Then the Jews said among themselves, "Where does He intend to go that we shall not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? 36 What is this thing that He said, 'You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come'?"

37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

40 Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." 41 Others said, "This is the Christ."

But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? 42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" 43 So there was a division among the people because of Him. 44 Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

45 Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?"

46 The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"

47 Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? 48 Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? 49 But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed."

50 Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, 51 "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?"

52 They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." NKJV

As we continue last week's message we want to pick up in verse 30. What we have seen is that Jesus here is claiming that He is the Messiah. That He knows the Father who sent Him. He has claimed that his message is not His but His Father's. Jesus knows that the Jewish leaders are opposed to Him. The people are divided as to whether or not Jesus is who He claims to be.

- I. The people are divided about Jesus.
  - A. One group wanted to arrest Jesus while another thinks He is the Christ.
    1. Many people believed on Him even with all the opposition of the Jewish leaders.
    2. They could not believe that anyone else could show more miracles than Jesus.
    3. Also those who were trying to arrest Him could not which helped others believe in Him.
    4. They could not arrest Him because His hour had not yet come.
      - a. They could do nothing until it was God's time, His hour. John 7:44-46 44 Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. 45 Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" 46 The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" NKJV
      - b. Psalms 76:10 10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise You; With the remainder of wrath You shall gird Yourself. NKJV
      - c. Isaiah 46:10 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,' NKJV
      - d. Luke 22:53 53 When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness." NKJV
      - e. John 8:20 These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come. NKJV
      - f. John 12:23 But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. NKJV
      - g. John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. NKJV
  - B. Jesus had said that He would be divisive.
    1. Luke 12:51-53 51 Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. 52 For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. 53 Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter

and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law." NKJV

2. It was not so much that Jesus came to do that, it was just a natural result of the truth. Some will accept it and others will not.
- C. There will always be those who are opposed to God and therefore to Jesus.
1. As Jesus taught, you cannot accept the Father without accepting Him.
- II. Jesus announces to the multitudes that His time is short.
- A. He knows what is going on better than they do.
1. The leaders send guards to take Him and although He knows they will not accomplish their mission, yet He knows that His time is limited.
- B. He knows of His coming trial and crucifixion.
- C. He knows that the time that He has to give them His message is short.
1. People always think they will have time to come to Christ.
  2. As a matter of fact Jesus tells them that they will seek Him but not be able to find Him.
    - a. 33 Then Jesus said to them, "I shall be with you a little while longer, and then I go to Him who sent Me. 34 You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come."
    - b. Still today the Jews seek after their Messiah not realizing that they missed Him and He will never come that way again.
    - c. Some times in life God comes to a person and reveals Himself but that person will not accept Him. They just do not realize that God will never come that way to them again.
  3. The generation of Jesus' day never realized that six months was all they had before their nation would make its fateful choice that would seal their destruction.
- D. But they do not understand His words.
1. He is saying that He will be crucified and rise from the dead and go to His Father in heaven.
  2. They think He is talking about His going to somewhere else outside of Palestine.
  3. How often do people hear the words of God and misunderstand them, because as Jesus said earlier, they do not want to know the will of God, so then they will not know the will of God.

### III. Jesus Great Invitation

#### A. On the last day the great day of the feast.

1. This probably refers to the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the feast.
2. Each day in a very elaborate procession the priests have carried a golden picture to the pool of Siloam and filled it with water and brought in back to the temple to pour it out and begin the festivities of the day.
3. On the seventh day they would do the same but once they had brought the water back to the temple they would walk around the altar seven times and then pour out the water.
4. This water symbolized the water they received in the wilderness at the hands of Moses.
5. It also symbolized the outpouring of the Holy Spirit spoken of in many of the prophets.
6. 3 For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring; 4 They will spring up among the grass Like willows by the watercourses.' Isaiah 44:3-4 (NKJV)
7. It is in this context that Jesus makes this great invitation.

#### B. If anyone thirst.

1. The invitation is only for those who are thirsty.
2. Many people go through life and have no thirst for the things of God.
3. Oh yes they are thirsty for wealth, power, dominance, position and other such things that satisfy the fleshly nature.

#### C. Let him come unto me and drink

1. Jesus is the only place to find what will satisfy our thirst.
2. And He not only can but will satisfy it.
3. But this is only for those who come and drink.
4. Have you ever been really thirsty.
5. I can remember years ago when I worked in the hot summer on the hayrack throwing the bales of hay. As your body would loose so much water and as you were fairly busy when it came time to drink, you drank deeply.
6. I can remember those wonderful days of football practice when you would run and work out so strenuously and then the coach would give you a break to get a drink. You would drink deeply. Not just a few little sips.

7. Have you come to Christ to drink like that. To drink because you just can't help but drink. And you drink till your belly is almost full?
- D. And out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.
1. John tells us here that Jesus is talking about the Holy Spirit that Jesus would give to his followers.
  2. The Holy Spirit remains in the child of God and is like a river of water to carry them along through life's parched and desert land.
  3. Have you come to Him for drink?
  4. Have you experienced the thirst that nothing else can seem to satisfy?
  5. Come to Jesus, cast your self upon Him.
  6. Give Him your life and recognize that He is Lord of all.

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