Jesus and the Jewish Leaders

John 7:30 - 8:1

Introduction:

I. The Ominous Threat – 7:30-36

A. The First Attempt – 7:30-31

1. Frustrating for them – 7:30

“Therefore ﻿﻿they were seeking to arrest (πιάζω) Him; but ﻿﻿no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour (ὥρα) had not yet come.”

John doesn’t tell us how they tried – were seeking to take (arrest) (8:20; 10:39) Him, but whatever they did, it didn’t work, because His hour was not yet. Remember, His “time” (v.8) referred to the feast. His “hour” (ὥρα) refers to the cross.

2. Fruitful for Him – 7:31

“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?”

Matthew 11:2-6

“And when John had heard ﻿﻿in prison about the works of Christ, he ﻿﻿sent two of his disciples ﻿and said to Him, “Are You ﻿﻿the Coming One, or do we look for another?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: ﻿﻿*The* blind see and *the* lame walk; *the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear; *the* dead are raised up and ﻿﻿*the* poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not ﻿﻿offended because of Me.”

The people had understood things that the “educated” leaders had either missed or chose to ignore.

B. Their Final attempt – 7:32-36

1. Their Directions – 7:32

“The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him.”

Hatred toward Jesus makes strange bed-fellows. The chief priests were Sadducees. The Pharisees and Sadducees did not usually get along. The enemy of my enemy is my friend. So, these chief priests, Sadducees, sent officers to arrest Jesus.

2. His Duration on the Earth – 7:33

“Then Jesus said ﻿﻿to them, ﻿﻿“I shall be with you a little while longer, and *then* I ﻿﻿go to Him who sent Me.”

“a little while longer” is about 6 months, from Harvest (Oct) to Passover (April). He will then go back to the Father.

3. His Disappearance from the Earth – 7:34-36

“You ﻿﻿will seek Me and not find *Me,* and where I am you ﻿﻿cannot come.”

The Jews won’t be able to find Him from He will be in heaven. They can’t go there because they have not believed on Him. After He has been crucified, buried, resurrected and has ascended. Very few Jewish leaders will believe on Him. The unbelieving leaders will stay there in Jerusalem and be killed in the 70 AD judgment of God predicted by Daniel 9:24-27. In the meantime Jesus will continue to preach

﻿“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?” What is this thing that He said, ‘You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come’?” (7:35-36)

The Jews were just as confused about where Jesus would go as they were about where He had come from. They were still thinking on the physical level. To them Jesus was only a man, not the Son of God.

The “dispersion among the Greeks” refers to the Jews who had left Jerusalem and had gone among the nations. “Greeks” refers to anyone who was not Jewish, i.e. the Gentiles. This question was prophetic of what would happen after Jesus was crucified. Paul did, in fact, go to the Gentiles under Jesus’ orders.

II. The Last Day – 7:37-39

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﻿﻿“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.”

The feast of Tabernacles lasted only 7 days. But the next day was a “day of convocation” which the people regarded as part of the feast. John may have intended either the 7th or the 8th day. It really does not affect the understanding of the text.

“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, ﻿﻿out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” (7:38)

﻿﻿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.

III. The Continuing Dispute – 7:40-44

A. Those Who Listened to the Message – 7:40-﻿﻿41a

“Therefore ﻿﻿many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.” Others said, “This is ﻿﻿the Christ.”

B. Those Who Lambasted the Message – 7:41b-43

“But some said, “Will the Christ come out of Galilee? ﻿Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, ﻿﻿where David was?” So ﻿﻿there was a division among the people because of Him.”

C. Those Who Loathed the Message – 7:44

“Now ﻿﻿some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.”

IV. The Lawful Argument – 7:45-52﻿

A. Testimony of a Soldier – 7:45-49

“Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why have you not brought Him?” The officers answered, ﻿﻿“No man ever spoke like this Man!” Then the Pharisees answered them, “Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.”

B. Testimony of a Sanhedrin Member – 7:50-51

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

C. The Testimony of Themselves – 7:52

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

﻿They were wrong on two points:

1. There were at least three prophets from Galilee in the Old Testament -- Jonah, Hosea, and Nahum.

2. Jesus did not start from Galilee -- He was born in Bethlehem in Judea.

V. The Solitary Exit – 7:53 – 8:1

“And everyone went to his *own* house. But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.”