

# **“In Search for Jesus”**

**John 7:10-20, 40-46**      7/18/21

## Outline

*However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. <sup>11</sup> Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, “Where is he?” <sup>12</sup> Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, “He is a good man.” Others replied, “No, he deceives the people.” <sup>13</sup> But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders.*

*<sup>14</sup> Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. <sup>15</sup> The Jews there were amazed and asked, “How did this man get such learning without having been taught?”*

*<sup>16</sup> Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. <sup>17</sup> Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. <sup>18</sup> Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. <sup>19</sup> Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?”*

*<sup>20</sup> “You are demon-possessed,” the crowd answered. “Who is trying to kill you?”*

*<sup>40</sup> On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.”*

*<sup>41</sup> Others said, “He is the Messiah.”*

*Still others asked, “How can the Messiah come from Galilee? <sup>42</sup> Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David’s descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?” <sup>43</sup> Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. <sup>44</sup> Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.*

*<sup>45</sup> Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring him in?”*

*<sup>46</sup> “No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards replied.*

**The Problem of Jesus**

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## Four Solutions to the Problem

1. He was a good person.

“Jesus either deceived people consciously, or he was delusional, or he was divine. There is no getting around that trilemma.” Rabbi Duncan

## Jesus’ Absolutist Claims

- Jesus told people that if they lost themselves for him, they’ll find themselves. Matthew 16:25
- Jesus said our love for him when compared to any other loves should look like hate. Luke 14:26
- “*Before Moses was, “I am.”* John 8:58
- “*I am the way, the truth and the life.”* John 14:6

## People who Make Absolutist Claims

2 & 3. He was a deceiver/He was a lunatic

## What His Inner Circle Said of Jesus

*To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

*“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”*

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*When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. I Peter 2:21-23*

*You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.*

I John 3:5

The Charge of being self-deceiving. A lunatic.

*"You know, if you were to find a key on the ground and that key fit perfectly into a lock and opened it would it be more rational to conclude that the key was made for that lock by the lock maker or that it was a mere coincidence that the key fit the lock perfectly? The most probable conclusion would be that the key was made by a key maker for that lock."*  
G. K. Chesterton

*"Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?"(vss. 45-46)*

*"No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards replied.*

Billy Joel, *"The River of Dreams."*

*In the middle of the night  
I go walking in my sleep*

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*Through the valley of fear  
To a river so deep*

*I've been searching for something  
Taken out of my soul  
Something I'd never lose  
Something somebody stole*

## **The Way to Faith**

*"Poor proof can destroy faith. So can the lack of evidence. But strong  
proof cannot create faith."*

## **The Implication of Believing in the Deity of Jesus**

A. We would give him our total allegiance.

B. We would embrace grace.

*"It is by grace alone that you have been saved, not of  
works."* Ephesians 2:8-9

C. We would learn from Him.

*"Who do you say that I am?"*