

“Seek Ye The Lord”
(While He May Be Found)
John 7:25-36

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - To John 7 - Where:
 - Last Sunday - We Left Jesus:
 - As He Was Teaching In The Temple:
 - During The Feast Of Tabernacles!
 - Which Would Mark The Beginning:
 - Of The Final Six Months Of His Ministry:
 - Before He Would Return “Unto Him That Sent” Him! (7:33)
 2. But - As Jesus Was Teaching:
 - He Gathered Around Him:
 - Another Crowd!
 - And - As We Will See:
 - This Crowd Was Made Up Of:
 - At Least Three Different Groups Of Jews!
 - There Are The Locals:
 - That Are First Mentioned In 7:25!
 - Then - There Are The Leaders:
 - That Are Mentioned In 7:32 - That Include:
 - The Pharisees & The Chief Priests!
 - And Then - There Is:
 - The Rest Of The Lot:
 - Of - Most Likely - Jewish Pilgrims:
 - Who Were There For The Feast!
 - And - They All Gathered Around Jesus:
 - And Listened To Him:
 - As He Taught!
 3. And So - Starting In 7:25-36:
 - John Tells Us About Their Reactions To Jesus!
 - 7:25-36 - “Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill? / But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ? / Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is. / Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not. / But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me. / Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come. / And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done? / The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him. / Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me. / Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come. / Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles? / What manner of saying is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come?”
 4. So - As Jesus Was Teaching In The Temple:
 - There Were Three Different Groups:
 - With Three Different Reactions!
 - And - The First Group We Read About:
 - In 7:25-27 - Was The Local Group:
 - Who Grew More & More:
1. ***Perplexed About Jesus!***
 - The Jews From Jerusalem:
 - Seemed To Have Had Their Finger:
 - On The Pulse Of What Was Going On:

- In Their City & At The Temple!
 - **IE**: Know Someone Like That?
- This Is Why:
 - John Starts With The Locals:
 - In 7:27 - “Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill?”
- It Is Clear From This:
 - That They Understood Something About:
 - The Conditions Of Their City!
 - They Were Not Like Some Of The Others:
 - Who May Have Been Ignorant Of The Current Events:
 - That Were Mentioned Back In 7:19-20!
 - Because - When Jesus Confronted The Jews:
 - About Wanting To Kill Him:
 - They Replied - “Thou Hast A Devil! Who Goeth About To Kill Thee?”
 - Some May Have Been Genuinely Ignorant Of The Plots To Kill Jesus:
 - That Were Already Mentioned In This Gospel!
 - But - That Was Not The Case:
 - With These Jews From Jerusalem!
 - They Took Pride:
 - In Knowing All The Goings-On In Their City! (News / Cable)
 - And They Knew That:
 - Their Own Leaders Were - In Fact:
 - Wanting To Kill Jesus!
 - 7:25 - “Is Not This He, Whom They Seek To Kill?”
 - But - It Is Also Clear:
 - That They Understood Something About:
 - The Claims Of Christ Himself!
 - Because - In 7:26 - They Noticed:
 - That - “Lo, He – Jesus – Speaketh Boldly / Openly / Freely, And They Say Nothing Unto Him! Do The Rulers Know Indeed That This Is The Very Christ?”
 - The Sayings Of Jesus:
 - Made An Impact:
 - On His Hearers!
 - And - The Works He Did:
 - Backed Up:
 - The Words He Said & The Claims He Made - As:
 - The Promised Messiah / Christ / Anointed One!
 - Remember When Jesus Spoke With:
 - The Woman At The Well In Samaria?
 - When She Said To Him - 4:25 - “I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things!”
 - Jesus Replied - In No Uncertain Terms:
 - “I That Speak Unto Thee Am He!”
 - But Now:
 - The Silence Of Their Leaders:
 - Was Also Making An Impact!
 - An Impact They Never Intended!
 - Because They Were Silent:
 - About Jesus - Maybe It Was Because:
 - Jesus *Was* The Christ!
 - Their Silence Was Starting To Back-Fire!
 - So - As We Will See:
 - They Would Not Maintain Their Silent Opposition To Jesus:
 - Much Longer!
 - So - It Seems That:
 - These Local Jews:
 - Were Pretty Smart & Confident About:

- The Things Going On:
 - In Their Town!
- And They Were Even:
 - On The Right Track:
 - In Identifying Jesus!
- But - In A Matter Of Moments:
 - They Reveal That They Actually Knew Nothing About:
 - The Coming Of Christ!
 - Because - In 7:27 - They Immediately Dismiss The Idea Of Jesus As The Messiah:
 - Because Of What They Thought They Knew About Him!
 - “Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is!”
 - In Popular Jewish Opinion:
 - When The Messiah Would Finally Come:
 - He Would Come Suddenly:
 - Onto The Scene!
 - Even As It Was Prophesied:
 - In Malachi 3:1 - “Behold – The Lord, Whom Ye Seek, Shall Suddenly Come To His Temple, Even The Messenger Of The Covenant, Whom Ye Delight In!”
 - And So - The Fact That They Knew Something About Jesus - And:
 - His Home & History:
 - Disqualified Him From:
 - His Claims!
- And So - In 7:28-29 - Jesus Responds:
 - And Confronts The Self-Confidence:
 - Of These Local Jews!
 - “Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not. / But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me!”
 - These Local Jews Thought They Knew Everything!
 - But Jesus Confronts Their Pride & Self-Confidence Head On!
 - They Thought They Knew Jesus!
 - But Jesus Points Out That:
 - Their Knowledge Of Him Was:
 - A Faulty Knowledge!
 - They May Have Known:
 - Something About Him!
 - But - They Didn’t Know:
 - Everything About Him!
 - And - What They Didn’t Know About Him:
 - Was What They Needed:
 - To Know Most About Him!
 - That He Was Sent By The One Who Is True!
 - The True & Living God!
 - But - These Proud Jews - Also Thought They Knew God!
 - So, Jesus Also Points Out That:
 - Their Knowledge Of Him Was:
 - A False Knowledge!
 - “Whom Ye Know Not!”
 - In Matthew 11:27 - Jesus Said Something Similar:
 - “No Man Knoweth The Son, But The Father; Neither Knoweth Any Man The Father, Save The Son, And He To Whomsoever The Son Will Reveal Him!”
 - But Then - Jesus Adds:
 - That In Complete Contrast With Them:
 - His Knowledge Of The One Who Sent Him Was:
 - A Full & Perfect Knowledge!
 - 7:29 - “But I *know* him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me!”
 - Now - If These Local Jews:

- Were Perplexed About Jesus Before:
 - They Were Perplexed No Longer!
 - He Confronted Their:
 - Self-Confidence - And:
 - They Were Greatly Offended!
- And So - John Tells Us In:
 - 7:30 - “Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come!”
 - Once Again - We Are Reminded That:
 - The Times Of Jesus’ Life:
 - Were In The Sovereign Hand & Plan:
 - Of His Father!
- But - In Spite Of This New Opposition:
 - To Jesus - We Still Find In 7:31:
 - That There Were Some Who Became:

2. *Persuaded By Jesus!*

- Because - Even As They Were:
 - Listening To His Words - And:
 - Learning About His Works:
 - John Tells Us That - 7:31 - “And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?”
 - So - This Group Of Jews:
 - Was Probably Made Up Of:
 - Jewish Pilgrims:
 - Who Made Their Way To Jerusalem For This Feast!
 - They May Have Come From:
 - Other Regions In Israel - Or:
 - They May Have Been Part Of The Jewish “Dispersion” - That Spread:
 - All Throughout The Known World!
 - But - “Many” Of Them “Believed!”
 - And Made - A Real:
- Commitment To Christ!
 - They Believed That:
 - “Jesus Is The Christ, The Son Of God!”
 - Which Is Why John Wrote This Gospel To Us As Well! (20:31)
 - But - This New Faith In & Commitment To:
 - Jesus As The Christ:
 - Was Not Some Blind Leap Into The Dark! Not At All!
 - Instead - It Was Based On - A:
- Conclusion About Christ!
 - And - A Well-Reasoned Conclusion At That!
 - “When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?”
 - Now - Even Though Their Faith:
 - Was Based On The Works Of Jesus - Even More Than:
 - His Words! It Was Certainly Better:
 - Than No Faith At All!
 - Jesus Even Commended This Faith:
 - In 10:37-38 - “If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. / But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father [is] in me, and I in him!”
 - But - Time Would Tell:
 - If Their Belief Was, In Fact:
 - A God-Wrought, Saving Kind Of Faith!
 - But - Even Though:
 - This Group Of Jews Believed In Jesus:
 - They Still Had The Same Old:
 - Concern About Christ!
 - This Concern Is Pointed Out To Us:

- In 7:32a - Because:
 - “The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him!”
- So - These New Believers:
 - Were Still Very Tentative & Shy!
 - They Only Spoke About Jesus:
 - In A Whisper:
 - Out Of Fear!
- And Yet - We Are Told That:
 - They Still “Believed In Jesus!”
 - And Jesus Would Have A Word For Them:
 - And Their Tentative Faith!
 - But Before That - Jesus Would Have To Deal With:
 - The Next Group Of Jews We Come To:
 - Even The Jewish Leaders!
 - Who Were Already:

3. *Provoked By Jesus!*

- Because - According To 7:32:
 - “The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him!”
 - These Jewish Leaders:
 - Were Provoked & Offended By Jesus:
 - Because - They Were:
- Threatened By Jesus!
 - How Could Those Common Jews:
 - Listen To Jesus & His Words:
 - And Ignore Them?
 - The True Leaders & Scholars:
 - Of The Law!
 - Well - After Hearing:
 - “That The People Murmured Such Things Concerning” Jesus:
 - They Went To The Chief Priests:
 - In Order To Get:
- Together Against Jesus!
 - It Is Well Know That:
 - The Chief Priests In Those Days:
 - Were Of An Entirely Different Religious Tradition!
 - The Sadducees!
 - But - They Put Aside Their Differences:
 - In Order To:
 - Conspire Against Jesus - And:
 - “To Take Him!”
 - **IE:** Isn’t It Often True That - “The Enemy Of My Enemy Is My Friend!” - Even If - They Were Enemies To Begin With! Seen In War / Politics / Even Religion!
 - And These Religious Leaders Were So Provoked By Jesus:
 - That They Even Commissioned:
 - The Officers Of The Temple Guard:
 - To Find The Right Opportunity:
 - To Seize & Arrest Jesus!
 - But - Why?
 - Simply Because Of The Words & Works Of Grace:
 - That He Had Done!
 - But - Once Again:
 - Jesus Knew All About This Too!
 - And So - In 7:33-34 - Jesus Responds:
 - And Confronts The Self-Centeredness:
 - Of The Jewish Leaders!
 - These So-Called Leaders:

- Thought They Could Take Jesus:
 - At Their Whim!
 - But - Jesus Tells Them:
- In 7:33 - That - His Time With Them:
 - Was Short!
 - “Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me!”
 - And So - In That Little Time:
 - Jesus Would Finish His Work! But Then:
- In 7:34 - Jesus Tells Them That:
 - Their Time With Him:
 - Was Short As Well!
 - “Ye shall seek me, and shall not find [me]: and where I am, [thither] ye cannot come!”
 - And So - They Only Had A Little Time & Opportunity Themselves:
 - To Find Him!
 - And - If They Did Not Find Him:
 - Here - They Would Never Meet Him:
 - There - Where He Would Go!
 - Of Course - We Know What Jesus Meant!

Conclusion:

1. But - This Caused Greater Confusion:
 - For - Most Likely - All Of The Jews:
 - In That Crowd! And So:
 - We Hear The Chorus Of Their Response:
 - In 7:35-36 - “Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles? / What [manner of] saying is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find [me]: and where I am, [thither] ye cannot come?”
 - So - Once Again:
 - They Understood The Words That Jesus Said:
 - Perfectly! Even Quoting Him:
 - Word-For-Word!
 - But - They Didn’t Understand:
 - What He Meant By:
 - What He Said!
2. But - What Jesus Said:
 - In 7:34 - And - What Is Repeated By The Crowd - In 7:36:
 - I Believe - Is A Call To All!
 - It Was A Call To All Of The Jews:
 - That Were There In The Temple With Him!
 - Whether They Were The Locals:
 - Who Were At First:
 - Perplexed By Jesus! Or:
 - Whether They Were The Leaders:
 - Who Were Provoked:
 - By Jesus! Or Even:
 - Whether They Were The Rest Of The Lot:
 - Who Were Persuaded:
 - By Jesus - And Even:
 - Believed In Him!
 - And - It Is A Call To All:
 - Of Us As Well!
 - 3. It Is A Call - That Comes Directly:
 - From The Prophet Isaiah:
 - Who Cries Out From The Pages Of Scripture:
 - “Seek Ye The Lord While He May Be Found, Call Ye Upon Him While He Is Near!” (Isaiah

55:6)

- And - Every One Of Us:
 - In This Room - Needs To Hear & Heed This Call:
 - Because - As Jesus Said:
 - There Will Come A Time When:
 - “Ye Shall Seek Me, And Shall Not Find Me!”

4. Like The Jewish Locals:

- There Are Still Many:
 - Who Are Self-Confident:
 - In Their Knowledge Of The Things Of God!
- And Even Though:
 - At First - You May Seem To Be On The Right Track!
 - But, When You Get Confused Or Perplexed:
 - You Feel Like You Can Figure Things Out On Your Own!
- And - Instead Of Going To & Waiting On The Lord:
 - For The Answers To Our Questions:
 - We Can Become So Confident In Our Own Conclusions:
 - That We Lose Track:
 - Of Christ!
- Sometimes - We Presume Too Much:
 - In Our Knowledge Of God!
 - And - Instead Of Basing:
 - Our Principles & Our Practices & Even Our Politics:
 - On The Revelation Of God:
 - We Base Them On The Reasoning Of Man!
- We Need To Heed The Call Of Isaiah!
 - “Seek Ye The Lord While He May Be Found!”
 - Seek After The Lord:
 - And His Wisdom, His Will, His Works, His Word!
 - Because - You Don't Know When:
 - That Opportunity Will Be Closed To You!
 - When - “Ye Shall Seek Me” - Jesus Says:
 - “And Shall Not Find Me!”

5. Or - Like The Jewish Leaders:

- There Are Still Many:
 - Who Are Self-Centered:
 - And Have Hardened Themselves:
 - To The Things Of God!
- And Even Though:
 - You May Claim To Be Religious:
 - And Even:
 - A Believer In & Follower Of Christ!
 - Yet - When You Hear:
 - The Word Of God - And:
 - His Truth Confronts & Convicts You:
 - Of Sin & Righteousness & Judgment!
 - What Happens?
- Instead Of Humbling Yourself:
 - And Submitting To His Word:
 - You Are Provoked:
 - Like The Pharisees & Chief Priests - And Want Nothing To Do:
 - With His Word & His Will!
 - Remember What Jesus Said:
 - In 7:7 - About The World?
 - “Me It Hateth, Because I Testify Of It, That The Works Thereof Are Evil!”
- If This Describes You:
 - Then - Listen To The Words Of Jesus!
 - Some Day - “Ye Shall Seek Me, And Shall Not Find Me!”

- And - When That Day Comes:
 - It Will Be Too Late!
- So - Heed The Call Of Isaiah!
 - “Seek Ye The Lord While He May Be Found, Call Ye Upon Him While He Is Near!”
- Because - When You Do:
 - In Psalm 34:18 - You Are Given:
 - This Promise - “The LORD [is] nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit!”
- 6. But - What About The Rest Of The Jews:
 - There At The Temple:
 - Who - Even Though They *Did* “Believe In Him” (7:31):
 - They Were Still Very:
 - Self-Conscious About Their Faith!
 - Even To The Point Of Fear!
 - Perhaps This Describes You & Your Faith!
 - And Your Faith:
 - Is Full Of Fear:
 - About What People Might Think About You Or Say About You Or Even Do To You!
 - If So - Keep On Hearing Isaiah’s Call!
 - Keep On “Seeking” The Lord:
 - “While He May Be Found!”
 - Keep On “Calling” To Him:
 - “While He Is Near!”
 - And - Seek Him:
 - Your Whole Life Long!
 - Because - According To:
 - Psalm 145:18 - “The LORD [is] nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth!”
 - If You Call Upon The Lord:
 - In Faith - He Is Still:
 - Near To You!
 - He Will Give You Comfort:
 - In Your Sorrows!
 - He Will Give You Calm:
 - In Your Fears! And:
 - He Will Give You Courage:
 - Even In Your Concerns!
 - 7. So - No Matter Where You Are:
 - In Your Life With God:
 - “Seek Ye The Lord - While He May Be Found!”

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com