

Theme: As the opposition against Jesus intensifies he answers questions that will be asked through the ages: Who is he? Where does he come from? Where is he going? Questions we must still answer today.

Background: Jesus faces rising opposition In the middle of the feast of Booths/Tabernacles.

Introduction: “Where are you from?” doesn’t always have a simple answer. Jesus leaves the Jews wondering just what he means by his answers to simple questions.

I. Is This The Christ?

A. Raising A Provocative Question

1. Aren’t they seeking to kill him?
 - From a New Constituency – Jerusalemites (25)
 - Aware of the plot (26,30)
2. Why don’t they stop him?
 - Because his “hour had not yet come”

B. An Intriguing Answer

- Maybe they *know* he really is the Christ! (26b)
- Nah! Can’t mean that

C. Can we expect anything more?

- Seeing works greater than those of Moses
- Heard teaching with authority greater than Moses

II. Where Does He Come From?

A. Exposing their confusion (27)

1. We do know where you come from
 - Galilee, of course
2. We don’t know where Messiah comes from
 - a. We know his birth place
 - Matthew 2:3-5; Micah 5:2
 - b. We don’t know his beginning
 - Daniel 9:25; Malachi 3:1

B. He was *sent* (28,29)

NOTE: The real question is about his “authority”. Is he an independent voice or does he come with the authority of a teacher?

1. You know where I’m from
 - In regard to his earthly heritage
2. You don’t know the one who sent me
 - His *authority* is not self-declared, but is that of the Lord of heaven!
 - a. You don’t know him
 - 5:37-42; 8:19, 42-44, 55
 - b. Nor the one he has *sent*

NOTE: The people of Jerusalem thought they could reject his word/work because in their minds, he had no “sender”, no authority to back him up. (cf. Exodus 3:10)

APPLICATION: Those who go forth in the name of Christ are “sent”! You don’t speak, act, share, on your *own* authority. In Christ, we are commissioned as his ambassadors.

III. Where Is He Going?

A. To jail? (30)

1. Arrest him! (32)

- a. Crowd is beginning to believe (31)
- b. Pharisees “hear” the murmuring of the crowd
 - Rising concerns
 - Plot becomes clear
- c. “Chief Priests” have the position of power
 - Combining forces

2. Not yet

- His time had not yet come.
- Knows where he is headed – and when – and how

B. To his Father (33)

1. Opposition is rising

- Not going to be with them much longer
- Turns to topic of his death

2. Back to him who sent me (33)

- He is going to heaven, to be with the Father

C. Where they cannot come (34)

1. Seek and you won't find!

- a. Can certainly relate to the resurrection
- b. May well be more troubling
 - Amos 8:11,12

2. You can't come where I am

- Not where “I am going”, but where “I am”
- He is already *with* the one who sent him

NOTE: By faith, we are now both with him and in him. We await a fuller reality of that union, but it is a present reality.

D. The ends of the earth? (35)

1. Saying more than they know

- To the Jews of the Diaspora?
- To teach the Greeks?
- A preposterous idea! Couldn't imagine such a thing.

NOTE: The very method Paul used to take the gospel the world

2. Missing the point

3. Troubled by the truth (36)

- Jesus again, speaks in a type of “parable”
- They do not know the one who sent him, hence, they do not understand

IV. The Questions We Must Answer – Back where we started

A. Will anyone do more than he has done?

B. Was He Just a Man or was he *sent from God*?

C. Is this the Christ?

D. What more are you looking for?