

John 7:31-53

Verses 31-32

Although some wanted to seize Him, there was a group of people that did believe in Him and His message. The hatred for Jesus continued to escalate as the chief priests and Pharisees hear that some are believing in Him. They give the command and send officers to seize Him.

Verses 33-34

Jesus declares that His time on earth is nearing the end (~ 6 months until He dies), and He will soon return to His Father who sent Him. This refers to Him being the Ancient of Days ([Daniel 7:13-14](#))([John 3:13](#)). He states that they will seek Him and not find Him and where He is going, they cannot come.

Verses 35-36

Those who hear Him saying that they will seek Him and will not find Him because they cannot go where He is going are confused by His words. They think He may be referring to leaving the immediate area and going to the Dispersion of Jews who lived among the Greeks to teach the scattered Jews, but also the Greeks (Gentiles).

Verses 37-38

One of the components of the Feast of Booths at this time was a water ceremony. The Feast of Booths was to be a time of remembrance of God's dwelling with them and His provision upon them while in the wilderness journey. He supplied bread from Heaven (manna) and gave them water from the rock while in the wilderness. Jesus has previously stated He is the true Bread of Heaven sent from the Father in chapter six. In the water ceremony the high priest would take and gather water in a gold vessel out of the pool of Siloam(Siloam means "sent") and bring back to the altar. The crowds would recite [Isaiah 12:3](#) "*Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation*" and then also would sing [Psalm 113-118](#) known as the Hallel during this ceremony. This was done as remembrance of God supplying them water in the wilderness from the rock and looking forward to the outpouring of the Spirit in salvation.

On the last day of this Feast that has included this water ceremony, Jesus stood and cried out "If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me and drink." The Jews there that day would have known what He was intending with that statement which was claiming His deity and claiming to be the Messiah. Jesus was stated that He was the One that supplied them water in the wilderness journey.

This is the same message He gave privately to the woman at the well in [John 4:13-14](#) but is now crying out for all to hear!

The rock that provided water in the wilderness is a shadow pointing to Christ. As the rock was struck in the wilderness for physical water ([Exodus 17:1-7](#)), Christ the rock of ages would be struck on the cross with water flowing out of His side ([John 19:34](#)) so that all who would believe would have living waters flowing from his inner most being by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Moses was instructed to strike the rock the first time ([Exodus 17:1-7](#)), but not the second time ([Numbers 20:1-13](#)). The second time, Moses was to only speak to the rock for water. Christ was struck and crucified once on the cross and now we speak to Him by calling on Him for salvation and the Holy Spirit.

- [1 Corinthians 10:1-4](#) For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; ³and all ate the same spiritual food; ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was ^[a]Christ.

- **Isaiah 55:1** “Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no [a]money come, buy and eat.
Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.
- **Revelation 22:17** The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

Verse 39

The living water He is referencing is the Holy Spirit indwelling His believers. The Spirit had not been poured out yet because the Son of Man had not ascended to His throne in Heaven and glorified. We must never overlook the resurrection. The resurrection was a sign that the Father was pleased and accepted the work of His Son. Without the resurrection the perfect life of Christ as well as His death are of no use. He must return to the Father so that He and the Father can send the Holy Spirit to regenerate, indwell, sanctify, guide, and seal His elect for the day of redemption. This outpouring occurs at Pentecost in **Acts 2**.

Verses 40-53

The words of Christ brought mixed beliefs and opinions about who He was. Some thought He was the prophet prophesied in **Deuteronomy 18:15**, some believed He was the Messiah, and others doubted He was the either of those because of where He came from (Galilee). They knew Scripture had stated that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem (House of Bread) (**Micah 5:2**) like David to whom the throne was promised to endure forever via the Davidic Covenant. They knew that Jesus grew up in Nazareth of Galilee, but they were unaware that He was born in Bethlehem. As a result of these differing opinions a division occurred because of Jesus. Some wanted to seize Him and arrest Him, but no one touched Him (His hour had not yet come). The officers who had been sent to arrest Jesus returned to the chief priests and Pharisees without Jesus they were questioned why they came back empty handed. They tell them that “never has a man spoken the way this man speaks.” We see a similar claim at the end of the sermon on the mount in **Matthew 7:28-29**. Jesus spoke with power and authority as He was sent from God speaking the words of life and truth. The Pharisees and chief priest accuse the officers of being deceived like the unlearned ignorant people had been. They boast that none of the Pharisees were led astray because they knew the law and had been trained unlike the common people. They showed such contempt for those who were not like them. They state the crowds who are being deceived don’t know the Law and are damned. Nicodemus who had come to Jesus in **John 3** at night and heard Jesus speak on being born again, was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin (not one of the unlearned ones the Pharisees were slandering). He now comes to the defense of Jesus and states the Law does not permit judgment of a person unless they are first heard, and all the evidence is laid out. They dismiss him quickly and tell Him to search all the history of Galilee to see if a prophet has ever come from Galilee which is where Jesus was raised. This draws our attention back to **John 1:46** where Nathanael asks “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip *said to him, “Come and see.” Everyone went home with no arrest of Jesus because His hour had not yet come.

The tension, hatred, and drama surrounding Jesus in Jerusalem is brewing and will continue to escalate as Jesus is nearing His death. The Jews want to kill Him and even though they think now is the right time the hour set from all eternity has not yet come. Jesus will be more hated, more despised, more condemned as He draws closer to His death. It is His words that will continue to offend people and will eventually lead Him to the cross to die. In the wilderness the rock was struck to provide physical water. It would be on the cross that Jesus the true rock would be struck and from Him living water would flow to all who believe. The invitation still goes out today just as Jesus cried out on the Last Day of Feast of Booths “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.” If you realize you are thirsty and come to Him to drink, He will satisfy and quench your thirst and you will never thirst again.