

Daily Bible Study Commentary by Pastor Steve

We're excited to have you digging deeper into the Word. The best way to use this study guide is to read the Bible verse(s) first, then Pastor Steve's commentary. God bless you.

John 7:25-27

vs25-26: Those who lived in Jerusalem knew that the religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus, so they were shocked to watch them stand there and make no attempt to arrest Him. Some wrongly assumed that this meant the leaders had changed their minds about Him. They later said to each other, "Perhaps, in truth, the rulers knew that this is the Messiah." **v27:** They were amazed that those leaders had been so easily deceived. In their minds the priests and Pharisees should have known that Jesus could not possibly be the Messiah, because everyone knew Jesus came from Nazareth and "when Messiah comes no one knows from where He is" (literal). Apparently there were popular teachers at that time which said that the Messiah would appear suddenly from heaven. And of course there are Old Testament passages which describe the return of Jesus Christ to earth and in doing so picture a sudden appearance of the Messiah. He arrives from heaven to set up God's kingdom on earth (Isa 11:1-16; 59:16-20; Zec 12:8-10; 14:1-4). The Bible is actually very specific about where the Messiah would be born (Jn 7:42; Micah 5:2), and that place is Bethlehem. But it seems that this group thought Jesus had been born in Nazareth, and since they knew the location of His hometown, in their minds that meant that He could not be the Messiah (vs41, 52).

John 7:28-31

vs28-29: Jesus heard these comments and realized that confusion was spreading through the crowd, so He raised His voice until it was loud enough for all to hear and said to them, in effect, "You think you know Me and where I came from, but your knowledge is superficial and incomplete. The real reason that you are so confused right now is because you have no relationship with God. You lack spiritual insight and have no discernment. He's trying to show you the truth about Me, but you can't hear Him. I know Him because I came from being beside Him, and He sent Me here" (paraphrase). **vs30-31:** This remark highly offended some of those in the crowd, and they must have surged forward to try to grab Him but were unable to reach Him. John says there were many in the crowd who did believe in Him, and it's likely that some of them stepped in to prevent the attackers from reaching Him.

John 7:30-32

vs30-31 (continued): John tells us that God was ultimately protecting Jesus because "His hour had not yet come," meaning that it was not yet God's appointed time for Jesus to be arrested and die. That "hour" would come the following spring, during Passover (Jn 13:1). For now, in spite of all the opposition toward Him by their religious leaders, many of those who saw, or even heard about, the miracles Jesus performed realized that these were important signs which could not be ignored. They asked themselves and others, "When the Messiah comes He will not do more signs than that which this man did [will He?]" (literal). **v32:** The Pharisees grew alarmed when they heard people making these positive statements about Jesus. They sensed that the tide of public opinion was turning toward Him, so they reported the situation to the chief priests and Pharisees because that group had the authority to send Levitical guards to arrest Him (Mt 27:62, 65; 1Ch 9:22-27; 26:12-19).

John 7:33

v33: Notice how Jesus described what would happen to Him after He died. He said, "I go to the One who sent Me" (literal). He didn't say I'm going to a beautiful place or a place where there will be no more sorrow or suffering. To Him heaven was much more than a place; it was a relationship; it was a reunion. He was going to return to His Father. When He spoke these words He had not yet been spiritually separated from His Father. That terrible moment would arrive a few months later, when for a few hours He would die alone on the cross (Mt 27:45-46). But even now, simply by becoming a man, that relationship had changed. It was not the face-to-face relationship that it had been in heaven, but after His death and resurrection He would return to that.

John 7:34

v34: He primarily addressed these remarks to the Pharisees and Levitical police who had been sent to arrest Him (v32). Basically He told them, "You can't arrest or kill Me until God's appointed time has arrived, and it's not here yet. But it is coming soon, and when it does, death won't be the end of Me; you will simply send Me back to My Father" (paraphrase). Then He added a warning, "You will seek for Me, but not find Me, because where I am you cannot come" (literal). To understand what He meant by this, we need to examine each part of this statement. First, He said, "You will seek for Me." He told people who wanted to kill Him that they would search for Him after He died. What did He mean by this?

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v34 (continued): There are three possible answers, and I think He meant all three: 1) "You will look for My body after I've been resurrected, but you will not find it because I will physically ascend to heaven" (Mt 28:11-15). 2) "You will long for the Messiah when terrible persecution arrives. False Messiahs will arise and promise to deliver you from bondage, but they will only lead you to destruction. And by then, I, the real Messiah, will be gone" (Lk 17:22; 19:41-44; 23:26-31). 3) "You will long for a Savior after you die and face your eternal destiny, but by then it will be too late" (Jn 8:21-24).

John 7:34

v34 (continued): In the second part of this statement He said, "You will not find Me." He warned them that the time would come when they would look for Him: they would look for His body, but it would be gone; they would need His Messianic leadership to rescue them from the Romans, but they had missed their opportunity; and someday each one of them would wake up on the other side of the grave and frantically look for a Savior, but it would be too late. Where humans spend eternity is determined in this life, not the next. If we haven't found Him here, we won't find Him there.

John 7:34

v34 (continued): In the third element of this statement Jesus said, "Where I am you cannot come." The final verdict given to those who reject Jesus will be this, "Where I am you cannot come." In other words, "I will be with the Father, but because of your unbelief, you will be separated from Me and therefore you will be separated from Him as well." For Jesus eternal life meant being with His Father. For us eternal life means being with Jesus, and then because we are joined to Him, we too are able to be with the Father. There's a very important revelation here. We can only be in heaven because we are there with Jesus. We could not enter the Father's presence or remain in the Father's presence without Him. We will be there because Jesus is there. In other words Jesus didn't merely open the door to heaven and let us in, He continues to clothe us with His righteousness, so we can stay there (Mt 22:11-13).