

Acts 7:25-39

²⁵ Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? ²⁶ And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ?"

25,26 In verse 20, His critics were asking who was seeking to kill Him, implying that He was paranoid. Those speaking in this verse must be those who thought He is a good man (vs 12). In Acts 3:17 Peter says that the leaders killed Jesus in ignorance of who He really is. Acts 7:51 Stephen said they killed Jesus while resisting the Holy Spirit. Here the people suspect the leaders know He is the Messiah.

²⁷ But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from."

27 There is a double meaning here. They thought He was born in Nazareth. The Messiah was to come from Bethlehem. Ultimately, they did not know He was from heaven. In the previous chapter Jesus declared He is the bread that came down from heaven (John 6:33; 3:31; 8:23). He declares it again in the next verses.

²⁸ So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from? But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know. ²⁹ I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me."

28,29 Jesus declared they do know where He is from. Do some of His enemies actually know He is from heaven or was Jesus saying they knew He was from Nazareth? Prophets often did not want the calling from God, but God sent them against their own will. Jesus is saying something a bit different. The divine plan was from the heart of the Father who sent Him. Jesus delighted to do the Father's will. Jesus goes on to say they don't know the Father, but He does. That was a very provocative declaration! Do you know the Father?

³⁰ So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. ³¹ Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?"

30,31 It so angered the skeptics' egos that they tried to find some legitimate reason to arrest Him. God would not permit it until the right time. Among those who thought He was a good man, belief was their salvation for they realized the signs could not be clearer or greater. The same is true today! One man I know stepped away from Christianity to New Age. He says Jesus was A way. But which of the other so called ascended masters did any signs fulfilling any prophecies? The New Age wants to rip Jesus out of His culture and history and make Him fit their ideology. Jesus was not just another man or one of a number of enlightened men. God sent Him to demonstrate the heart of God and die for the sins of the world.

³² The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest him.

32 The leaders start to fear an uprising and losing their power and wealth. They tried to exercise their power to eliminate Him and the danger He posed.

³³ Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. ³⁴ You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come."

33,34 Jesus predicted His soon coming departure. It was time to place their faith in Him and learn from Him while they still could. That is true to a much lesser extent with older godly men. They will pass and take what they have learned with them. We need to learn from them while we can. Thank God for the availability of books. We can learn from some of the great men of God through their biographies and writings.

³⁵ The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? ³⁶ What does he mean by saying, 'You will seek me and you will not find me,' and, 'Where I am you cannot come'?"

35,36 The people often misinterpret Jesus. They think He is going to the diaspora, but He was speaking of His death and ascension.

³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

37,38 On that day, the High Priest would exit the Water Gate of the temple and go down a giant staircase (recently uncovered) to the Pool of Siloam (recently the real one was discovered during an excavation to repair a sewer line). He would take a pitcher of water from the well quoting Isaiah 12:3 and ascend to the Temple. The people would march around the altar with their lulavs seven times. He would ascend the altar stairs with another priest who had a pitcher of wine. They would then begin to raise their pitchers as the people chanted, "Higher, higher, higher!" They higher the greater the joy for the coming year. Then they would pour it out through silver funnels on the altar as the crowd fell to a hushed silence. The picture was for the blessing of God during the coming year, of rain, crops, and ultimately of the Spirit that would one day be poured out. I believe it was in that moment of silence when Jesus shouted out from the crowd these words to the shock of the priests and everyone else as well.

Not sure which verses He is quoting, but it sounds like Isaiah 55:1. Some believe He is referring to Proverbs 18:4. He is declaring that He is the dispenser of the Holy Spirit. We should be experiencing that refreshing Spirit from Jesus daily.

³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

39 Jesus had to ascend to the Father and be glorified before the Spirit could be poured out on Pentecost Day. This was the answer to their need to know the Father. He

said so in John 16:7 ⁷ *Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.*

It would be a fulfillment of Isaiah 44:3, ³ *For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.* And also of Joel 2:28, ²⁸ *“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.* Jesus told them if they wanted the Holy Spirit they just needed to ask. Luke 11:13 ¹³ *If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”* Have you asked Him?

Questions

What is the double meaning in “know where He is from”?

What was Jesus’ provocative statement to the crowd?

What ceremony did Jesus interrupt?

What was He declaring?

How did this resolve the problem of them not knowing the Father?