

- I. Opening Thoughts
  - A. Jesus was bold against opposition
  - B. The words of Jesus always caused division
  - C. The confusion over Christ in His day is no different than the confusion over Christ in our day. People didn't know what to do with Him then. Neither do they do now. Even among believers, this confusion exists.
- II. Exegetical Notes
  - A. Vss. 25-27
  - B. This is the period of the final words of Jesus Christ. He's headed to Jerusalem, the place of His crucifixion. It is some 7-8 months away. It is early October.
  - C. In spite of intense opposition and even facing death, Jesus proclaimed the truths of Scripture.
  - D. Privately, these people knew Jesus was the Christ (Messiah). They could not bear to see Him become so popular, so they sought to kill Him
  - E. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to speak boldly the truth of God in spite of opposition. We should never let opposition keep us from proclaiming the Gospel.
  - F. Being with Jesus gives us boldness – Acts 4:13
  - G. Pray for more boldness, as the Apostles did – Acts 4:2-31; (cp. 5:17-42)
  - H. "No one will know where He comes from" O a tradition had developed in Jewish circles that the Messiah would appear suddenly to the people based on the misinterpretation of Isaiah 53:8 and Malachi 3:1. Scripture clearly prophesies that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem – Micah 5:2
- III. Vss. 28-29
  1. Their rejection of Jesus revealed their spiritual bankruptcy. If we reject Jesus, we reject God, and vice versa – John 5:23
  2. If people don't know who Jesus really is (Messiah, Savior, Son of God, Lord), they don't know God from where He came and who He is.
- IV. Vss. 30-31
  - A. Great division and confusion took place after Jesus spoke. Sometimes the words of Jesus will bring division. Whenever God's word is revealed to us, we have a choice to make – accept Him or reject Him – Matthew 10:34-36
  - B. "His hour had not yet come" – the hour of His crucifixion was not yet at hand. God's sovereign timetable is never altered by the will and plans of man
  - C. "Yet many of the people believed in Him" – Faith based on signs is not strongly encouraged, though it is better than nothing (John 10:38). There is no hint, however, that these people developed any deep understanding of the significance of the signs, thereby grasping who Jesus really was – Carson
  - D. "Will He do more signs?" – The question anticipates a negative answer.
- V. Vss. 32-36
  - A. The chief priests and Pharisees sought to arrest Jesus because many of the people believed in Him (vs. 31). They were concerned that the people would venerate (regard with great respect; revere) Him as Messiah
  - B. Common enemies make strange bedfellows. The chief priests (who were mostly Sadducees) and the Pharisees did not get along historically, but they had one common enemy: Jesus. This is the deceitfulness and hypocrisy of hatred.
  - C. Vss. 33-34 – "I will be with you a little longer" – here, Jesus is speaking of His glorification after His crucifixion and resurrection. This also sets the course of events that will lead to His ultimate arrest several months later. His moment has not yet come, but it is coming. This is the build-up to it.
  - D. Death is not, for Jesus, the end, but the return to the glory He had with the Father before the world began (17:5), His being lifted up to where He was before.
  - E. Let us glory in the finished work of Christ.
  - F. In vss. 35-36, once again, we find Jesus' words misunderstood. We have to hear the words of God with our spiritual ears, not our natural ears.
  - G. They cannot imagine Jesus going where He cannot be found. Perhaps they thought He would live among the Greeks. Who knows? The point is they missed His point.