

I. WENT IN SECRET?

A. We recall the situation from the previous chapter

1. His brethren wanted Him to go up – not for spiritual reasons
 - a. But for their own pride, maybe for their own gain
 - b. If He really did “make it big” why not ride His coattails?
 - c. But He knew their carnal desires (vs. 3&4)
2. There was also a group that would try to make Him king
 - a. But again – for their own pride, for their own gain
 - b. Not because of a desire to see God glorified
 - c. Is that what we want for our nation?
 - i. It’s a valid question to be asked from pulpits in America
 - ii. Do we want to BEAT the democrats?
 - iii. Or do we want to see God glorified?
 - iv. Do we want our nation to be a godly nation once again?
 - v. Make America Godly Again (that would be a good hat!)
 - d. People claim President Trump got saved
 - i. I hope that’s true
 - ii. But our nation will NOT become godly through elections nor will it become godly by government
 - iii. Our nation will become godly again by PREACHING
 - iv. BY THE GOSPEL!
 - v. Only the Bible can make a nation righteous!
3. What about Jesus?
 - a. He never sought public acclaim
 - b. The only time you see Him put Himself in the public eye is at the last Passover, riding the colt of an ass into Jerusalem
 - c. Right before He went to the cross to pay for your sins and mine
 - d. Zechariah 9:9 – “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”
 - e. Why? Because He came to do
 - i. Not His own will
 - ii. But the will of the Father!
4. Would that He WOULD be seen through our lives
 - a. And not us!
 - b. When people see us, they should see our Lord!

B. After His brethren were gone up (vs. 10)

1. We don’t know how much time elapsed
 - a. Obviously couldn’t be too long or He’d miss the feast

- b. Of COURSE, He went up – He always did right
 - c. He followed the Law of God
 - d. Romans 8:3 – “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:”
2. I hasten to point out that no force on earth could have stopped Him
- a. It isn't that “He dare not” go up, but that He “would not”
 - b. This difference is very important
 - i. God calls us to proclaim His Gospel
 - ii. But He never calls us to be foolish with it!
 - iii. If God calls us to fly to Tehran and began to loudly preach
 - iv. Then DO IT!
 - v. But if not, why limit our ministry at the end of a firing squad when there are people all around that need to hear!
 - c. Matthew 10:16 – “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”
- C. About his brethren
- 1. We see the sad testimony that his brethren did not believe (vs. 5)
 - 2. Matthew 13:55 – “Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? (56) And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?”
 - 3. There would come a time when some (at least) would believe!
 - a. After Jesus Christ arose, we know that James and Jude
 - b. Became faithful disciples
 - c. Simon, according to extra-Biblical accounts became a believer
 - d. Of Joses (or Joseph) and His sisters, we know nothing about
 - e. We don't even know the sisters' names (just there were two)

II. WHO WAS SOUGHT?

- A. The Jews Sought for Him (vs. 11)
- 1. Remember the motivations of the groups here
 - a. There is the crowd or the “people”
 - b. And sometimes a distinct group of “disciples”
 - i. Odd that we don't see them in this passage
 - ii. Perhaps they went up to the feast with their own families?
 - c. But here we see the Jews seeking Him
 - i. It can be easy to get confused on this point
 - ii. They were not seeking Him to learn
 - iii. Neither did they want to see miracles
 - iv. The JEWS sought Him to kill him (see vs. 1)
 - 2. They had nothing but raging jealousy for Him

3. He had told them in chapter 6 that He had come down from the Father
 4. How HE and HE ALONE was the Bread of Life
 5. How only by believe upon HIM and HIM ALONE could one find eternal life
 6. They heard the Truth and they hated Him for it
- B. Ironic that they EXPECTED Him to be at the feast
1. They called Him a blasphemer and yet still fully expected Him there
 - a. They knew He would obey the Law
 - b. What hypocrites!
 2. That's nothing new though
 - a. They said there was nothing to His claims to be God and YET
 - b. We see them in Matthew 27 asking for a watch over His tomb
 - c. Matthew 27:63 – "Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again."
- C. The people seek Him as well
1. The Bible records the murmurings (vs. 12)
 2. A modern word might be "buzz."
 3. What will He do this time?
 4. We know who was sought, but what was said?

III. WHAT WAS SAID?

- A. The Jews stirred up the people
1. We have to read verses 11 and 12 together for good context
 2. They went around asking in derision, "Where is He?"
 3. The contempt – if this charlatan doesn't show, then He's a law breaker
 - a. Where is this "Bread of Life"? I don't see Him?
 - b. In seeking to spoil His reputation, they only built it up!
 - c. They put the name Jesus on everyone's lips!
 4. If they can put His name on everyone's lips through hatred
 - a. SURELY we can do it through the power of His name!
 - b. Wouldn't it be great to make Naples buzz with the name Jesus!
- B. His name divided them (vs. 12)
1. Some said – He is a good man
 - a. Now that is faint praise for the Messiah
 - b. Note they didn't say He was Christ or that He was from God
 - c. Just that He was a "good man"
 - d. People today tell you He was a "good teacher"
 - e. No, He is GOD!
 2. Certainly, some that had not made up their minds in this group
 - a. They would agree with Nicodemus
 - b. Who came to Jesus by night
 - c. "No man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with Him."

3. Others said NAY, but He deceiveth the people
 - a. His name divides today as well
 - i. There is nothing wrong with the Gospel
 - ii. The PROBLEM is with human nature!
- C. There is NO middle ground with God
 1. 2 Corinthians 2:15 – “For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: (16) To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?”
 2. Matthew 12:30 – “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”
 3. Revelation 3:15 – “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. (16) So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”
 4. Matthew 10:35 – “For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. (36) And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. (37) He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”

IV. WHY BE SCARED?

- A. No man spake openly (vs. 13)
 1. Why for fear of the Jews
 2. As usual, anything against Jesus could be said openly loudly
 3. But anything in support of Him must be whispered only in trust
- B. Man-Fearing Spirit
 1. We must speak His name BOLDLY
 2. Acts 4:19 – “But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. (20) For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”
- C. But look at what God can do!
 1. Acts 4:29 – “And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,”
 2. Acts 4:30 – “By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.”
 3. Acts 4:31 – “And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”

V. WHEN TO SEEK?

- A. Today is the day to seek the Lord
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 6:2 – “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”
 - 2. Seek Him today
- B. What will you say of Jesus?