

I. **THEY DIDN'T KNOW HIS LOCATION**

A. The Jews sought Him (vs. 11)

1. Remember, the groups that we see in Chapters 6 & 7
 - a. The people
 - b. The Jews
 - c. His brethren
 - d. His disciples (though notably absent)
2. Some said He was a good man (vs. 12) but others said a deceiver
 - a. God gave us a healthy dose of skepticism
 - b. After all, I'm a preacher by day but a compliance auditor by night
 - i. I love to ask a question and then...
 - ii. Let the uncomfortable silence build
 - iii. From the evidence you have already provided, please demonstrate to the team how you meet this requirement.
 - iv. <silence>
 - c. I tell people, I'm from Missouri. You have to SHOW ME.
 - i. God had no problem proving to me He exists
 - ii. I think that's more common than we may know
 - iii. Hebrews 11:6 – "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."
 - iv. I couldn't legitimately say there was no God
3. Anyone paying attention couldn't legitimately call Him "deceiver"
 - a. John 5:1-2, 5-6, 8-9 – No one could claim no healing
 - b. The man was walking and talking with the people
 - c. It was a feast, people were everywhere
 - d. Here's the answer – John 5:16

B. Where is He?

1. They seem to be saying: If He were really something important
2. He'd be here. Where is He?
 - a. If He were real, wouldn't it be obvious?
 - b. That's the skeptic's ploy isn't it?
 - c. You'll hear them say things along those lines
 - i. Why would a good God allow so much evil in the world?
 - ii. Why wouldn't He just SHOW Himself if He really exists?
 - iii. Our science has out-grown our need for a sky god.
 - d. Did He create evil?
 - i. He created free will so we can choose to return His love
 - ii. He doesn't even ALLOW evil – He JUDGES evil

- iii. The mystery is how a thrice Holy God has MERCY
 - e. He does show Himself!
 - i. General Revelation – stars, goldilocks world, DNA,
 - ii. Special Revelation - The Bible (construction and prophecies)
 - f. Science is nonsense without the order and mind of God
 - i. Maury – father of oceanography “paths of the sea”
 - ii. I & II Laws of Thermodynamics
 - iii. Fossil record – easily explainable through the Bible flood
 - iv. What all-powerful God needs billions of years of mishaps, misery and mistakes to create a universe?
- C. He just pops up in the middle in their midst
 - 1. Where is He? Right in the middle of the temple (vs. 14)
 - a. It almost sounds “sudden” doesn’t it?
 - b. Nobody could find Him, then He just “goes up” into the temple
 - c. Just like when He was 12, He was never lost
 - 2. Midst of the feast
 - a. 8 days long (sabbath to sabbath)
 - b. So, day 4 or 5.
 - 3. Already quoted Heb. 11:6 ...rewarder of them that diligently seek Him
 - 4. Matthew 6:33 – “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
 - 5. Seek Him and you will know His location

II. THEY DIDN’T KNOW HIS DOCTRINE

- A. I love what He does – teaches!
 - 1. What does He teach? God’s Word. Old Testament. Law and Prophets.
 - a. That’s doctrine! It’s becoming a bad word in some parts
 - b. It’s what Jesus called it – vs. 16
 - 2. He is our example – that is why we should make much of the Bible
 - a. We should learn it, teach it, live it, love it.
 - b. How we treat the Bible is ultimately how we treat Jesus Christ
 - c. Why? “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word WAS God.”
 - 3. At this time, each great teacher would go to the temple
 - a. Choose a spot and begin to teach!
 - b. The best ones got to hold court by a choice pillar maybe
 - c. Try to get the biggest crowd of listeners or disciples
 - d. We see this in the Apostle Paul’s resume from Acts 22:3
 - e. Act 22:3 – “I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.”

- B. Even the Jews marveled at His teaching (vs. 15)
 - 1. Notice they don't say He was wrong or a heretic in His teaching!
 - 2. They say He has letters but never learned! Literally A-B-C's
 - 3. They testified that He KNOWETH letters
 - 4. In all their vast knowledge of the Scripture, they knew He taught the Bible correctly and truthfully and amazingly
- C. He could have just revealed His divinity
 - 1. A few lightning bolts. A few legions of angels.
 - 2. But He choose instead to TEACH THE BIBLE! Amazing!
- D. Not His doctrine, but the Father's (vs. 16)
 - 1. If any man WILL to do God's Will (vs. 17)
 - 2. If we want to know Him and His doctrine, it's a matter of the heart
 - 3. We are told to walk in the light, as He is in the light
 - a. The more we learn of Him, the more we will know of His doctrine
 - b. I used to love to go exploring caves in Missouri
 - c. Deep dark in the caves
 - d. When we came out, the light dazzled our eyes.
 - e. But the longer we were in the light, the more the details became apparent. We would no longer be dazzled and could soon see our way more clearly!
- E. Walk with Him, and you will know His doctrine.

III. THEY DIDN'T KNOW HIS FATHER

- A. They had never forgiven Him for healing on the Sabbath day
 - 1. But isn't it always right to do right? Even on the sabbath?
 - 2. Jesus reminds them of circumcision on the eight day (a requirement)
 - a. What if the baby is born on the sabbath?
 - b. First, someone explain that the baby shouldn't come on the sabbath day – tell the woman she shouldn't "labor"!
 - c. Somethings required to be done on the sabbath, why shouldn't God decide to give an impotent man STRENGTH on His day?
 - 3. The working of God was NEVER outlawed on the Sabbath Day
- B. And they said He had a devil
 - 1. They called him a possessed by a devil (vs. 20)
 - a. A crazy man. A base man. A man of low character or morals
 - b. And yet God knew their hearts (vs. 1)
 - 2. Here again we see the character of our Lord on display
 - a. 1 Peter 2:23 – "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:"
 - b. What did He tell them to do? (vs. 24)
 - c. 1 Samuel 16:7 – "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have

refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.”

d. Alms for the blind (never said I was – my dog is!)

C. He was SENT from the Father (vs. 29)

1. Genesis 3:15 – “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”
2. He cried out, unusual for our Savior, to be heard above the din (vs. 28)
3. It was important to Jesus that no one miss this.
4. He tells them plaintively - You know where I come from (in an earthly sense), but you have never met my Father!
5. Turn to Him and you will know His Father

IV. THEY DIDN'T KNOW HIS HOUR

A. They sought to kill Him

1. But no one could “laid hands on Him” (vs. 30)
2. Can you explain that preacher? No, I really can't
 - a. All I know is his hour had not yet come and no power on earth could touch Him
 - b. They tried – the Bible says they “sought”
 - i. But they couldn't
 - ii. Maybe it was something about His eyes
 - c. Luke 22:60 – “And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. (61) And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. (62) And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.”
3. Maybe they reached out, and He just looked at them...

B. Do the leaders know that this is the Messiah? (vs. 26)

1. Do they know more than they're telling us?
2. Verses in Malachi and Isaiah (vs. 27) taken out of context
3. But we see it in operation in this very chapter

C. Many people believed on Him (vs. 31)

1. They could no longer hold their peace! Once they didn't dare (vs. 13)
2. But now they can't keep silent
3. What more evidence do we need?
4. How could some other “Christ” do more?
5. What more evidence to YOU need?

D. Believe and He will save you THIS hour!

V. DO YOU KNOW THE SAVIOR?

- A. They didn't know His location, His doctrine, His father, nor Hour
- B. But you can – from the Word of God
- C. Be Saved today!