

I. **SOLDIERS SENT**

A. The Pharisees are worried

1. You can see that they are the ones in power – pulling the strings
 - a. See how they AND the chief priests (vs. 32)
 - b. It wasn't the Sadducees or the Jews or the people
 - c. It wasn't just the ones in charge of the temple
 - d. It was the ones who said they believed in the RESURRECTION
2. See the progression of events
 - a. There's a difference between vs. 30 and vs. 32
 - b. "They" sought to take Him
 - i. Some have thought that this may be like John 6:15
 - ii. "When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone."
 - iii. But that cannot be – notice "His hour"
 - iv. John 17:1 – "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:"
 - c. Probably the chief priests
 - i. Vs. 28 – He was in the temple
 - ii. Certainly, some of the religious leaders heard Him
 - iii. This gave the Pharisees leave to tattle on Jesus
 - iv. Matthew 23:13 - "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."
 - d. The People spoke
 - i. How could a different Messiah do more than this man?
 - ii. If this isn't the real Christ, how could He be more? (vs. 31)
3. The Pharisees heard it, they went to the priests
 - a. And the priests sent the soldiers
 - b. Yet another attempt to take Jesus into custody
 - c. It won't succeed! Look at vs. 45 & 46!

B. You'll get your wish (vs. 33)

1. Jesus is speaking to the officers and anyone who could hear Him
 - a. Yet a little while am I with you
 - b. It won't be long now, and then I'll go OF MY OWN ACCORD
 - c. You cannot take me now, but I will go away one day
2. He goes unto the One that sent Him

- a. Acts 1:9 – “And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.”
- b. Acts 7:55 – “But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, (56) And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.”
- 3. And even AFTER Jesus had gone away, they still hate Him!
- 4. Acts 7:57 – “Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, (58a) And cast him out of the city, and stoned him:”
- C. What He said next, though, stopped them in their tracks
 - 1. He spoke them quietly about going way
 - a. And then He said something else entirely different (vs. 34)
 - b. They knew Jesus directed this at themselves and many others
 - c. It stopped them. They even commented on it.
 - 2. It confused them (vs. 35)
 - a. The officers may have caught up with the soldiers by this time
 - b. The Jews were speaking among themselves
 - c. Will He go out among those vagabond Jews?
 - i. There were many that came into Jerusalem for the feasts
 - ii. But lived among the Gentiles the rest of the year
 - 3. And yet from their own mouths they prophesied EXACTLY the work of the Apostle Paul on his missionary journeys.
 - a. An apostle out of due season
 - i. Called to spread the Gospel among the gentiles
 - ii. And this may blow your mind – it does mine
 - iii. Acts 9:1 – “And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, (2) And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.”
 - b. When they asked if Jesus would go to the Gentiles (vs. 35)
 - i. These zealous Jews, agents of the High Priest
 - ii. When all the religious Jewish men were in Jerusalem
 - iii. SAUL may have been STANDING RIGHT THERE!!!
 - iv. He may have even been one of the ones ASKING it!
 - 4. What manner of saying is this?
 - a. It’s a prophetic saying
 - b. It’s a solemn saying
 - c. It’s a scary saying

d. Because here's what the Scripture Said.

II. SCRIPTURE SAID

A. Expedient that He goes away

1. John 16:7 – “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”
 - a. Jesus Christ left the glories of Heaven and limited Himself to a single physical human body
 - b. As such, He would (not could) only be in one place at a time
 - c. He went away and sent the Holy Spirit to indwell Christian's heart
 - d. He talks of going away AND sending the Holy Spirit
 - e. We know John 16:7, but we weren't looking for it here
2. Spirit of Truth
 - a. John 16:13 – “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”
 - b. Points us to God's Word
3. Parenthetical Explanation (vs. 39)
 - a. Wanted to make sure we knew it was about the Holy Ghost
 - b. And by the way, He indwells those who get SAVED (believe)
 - c. Neither water baptism nor “second blessing” is mentioned

B. As the Scripture hath saith (vs. 38)

1. Isaiah 41:17 – “When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. (18) I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.”
 - a. The Scripture is talking about the Holy Spirit and the Gospel!
 - b. Isaiah 44:3 – “For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:”
2. This is uncommon and unexpected
 - a. We may not realize the blessing we truly know in our day
 - b. The Holy Ghost in the Old Testament would come upon some
 - i. Think of how He was with Samson but left
 - ii. Think of how He was with even King Saul but left
 - c. But now He comes to STAY – Praise God!
3. Ephesians 1:13 – “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (14) Which is

the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

C. Feast of Tabernacles

1. A remembering of their 40-year trek in the wilderness, dwelling in tents
 - a. And on the last day, the priests would “pour out the water”
 - b. The assembly would make a procession out to Siloam
 - c. And fill vessels full of water, the people would march behind
 - d. And while the people praised the Lord, the priests would pour out the water into ground
2. A picture of the water that came from the rock in the wilderness
 - a. The people were thirsty in their wanderings
 - b. God told Moses to strike the rock and out came a spring of water
 - c. And their thirst was satisfied!
3. And there Jesus CRIED once again (vs. 37-38)
 - a. Could it be during that same procession?
 - b. Maybe even while the people sang Isaiah 12:3 as they did?
 - c. Isaiah 12:3 – “Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.”
 - d. Could it be even while the people watched the water poured out?

III. STRIVING SPIRIT

A. But this spake He of the Spirit (vs. 39)

B. Dear friend

1. If you don’t know the free pardon of your sin through Jesus Christ
2. Genesis 6:3 – “And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.”
3. There may come a day when God accepts your “no” for an answer

C. Dear Christian

1. He has poured out His Blood for you
2. He is pouring out His Spirit THROUGH you
3. Will you pour out your life for Him?

IV. SOLEMN STATEMENT

A. It is a frightening thought in vs. 34

B. He is saying there will be a time when a lost soul will seek Him

1. But cannot find Him
2. When a lost soul will want to be where He is
3. But cannot!

C. This verse flies in the face of all those who believe incorrectly about God

1. We are not all God’s children – we are all His creation
2. We will all not go to heaven when we die – only those who are Saved

3. All roads do not lead to Heaven
4. John 14:6 – “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

V. SEEKING SAVIOR

- A. He came to Seek and to Save that which was lost
- B. Isaiah 55:6 – “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:”
- C. Be saved today