

# The DAILY JESUS NEWS #146

## Stage VI. Jesus' Later Judean Ministry B. Jesus' Ministry at the Feast of Tabernacles

### 1. Jesus' First Teaching at Tabernacles: "Rivers of Living Water"

#### iii: Two Failed Attempts to Arrest Jesus

John 7:28-36

28 Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out,

*"Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I did not come here--permanently-- on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, 29 but I myself know him, because I am from him and he sent me."*

30 At this they were trying to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.  
31 Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, "When the Messiah comes, surely he will not perform more signs than this man, will he?"

32 The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.

33 Jesus said, *"I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me. 34 You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I AM, you are unable to come."*

35 The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks? 36 What did he mean when he said, 'You will look for me, but you will not find me,' and 'Where I am, you cannot come'?"

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

|                     | CONTEXT DIGEST  |
|---------------------|---|
| Location            | The Temple Courts in Jerusalem                                    |
| Timeline            | September (Month 31)  |
| Jesus' Life Context | Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry                            |
|                     | B. Jesus' Ministry at the Feast of Tabernacles                    |
|                     | I. Jesus' First Teaching at Tabernacles: "Rivers of Living Water" |
| Title               | iii Two Failed Attempts to Arrest Jesus                           |

#### COMMENT:

The various crowd reactions we noted in yesterday's text escalated into two failed attempts to seize Jesus. His claim to be sent from the Father, one in spirit and purpose with God, qualified as blasphemy for some who heard him.

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The first attempt was led by the Jewish leaders who were lurking in the crowd. The antagonistic portion of the crowd attempted to surge forward and capture Jesus, but they were too few to succeed in turning the entire crowd into a lynching mob. It was not yet time for Jesus to die.

Then, the Chief Priests and the Pharisees sent the Temple guards to arrest Jesus. This attempt also failed. After listening to the Lord speak the guards were so impressed with him that they reported back: *"No one ever spoke the way this man does!"* (JN 7.46) They were right. No one in history has influenced the entire world with his life and words like Jesus.

John's note that Jesus' *"time had not yet come"* (7.30) emphasized God's sovereign control over the events in his Son's life. Jesus was determined to make his way to the cross. But, his death would not be of mere human origin. He would *"lay down his own life"* when the appointed time had come, not before.

We also note that Jesus spoke of his death and resurrection as the gateway to ***"going to the one who sent me."*** Jesus treasured his fellowship with the Father more than anything else. Love does that. As much as Jesus gloried in the constant consciousness of his Father's presence in every moment of his fleshly life on earth, he lived with a simmering anticipation of his return to the unlimited kind of fellowship that characterized his communion with the Father in eternity past. The resurrection body that awaited Jesus would allow him to experience his Father again with a degree of consciousness that only the Trinity knows.

As Jesus experienced persecution, hatred, misunderstanding, and indifference from people, His focus remained on his Father's presence. The joy of restored, full fellowship with his Father when his earthly work was done motivated him to consider the sufferings of this life, even the cross, to be a relatively small thing compared to the glory that awaited him. What an inspiring example we see in Jesus.

### APPLICATION:

Jesus ministered to people in the face of bitter hatred and sustained opposition, even persecution. It never fazed him. *"Love never gives up."* I Cor .13.8A

*Are you experiencing hardship, even persecution because you obey and proclaim Jesus?*

*How can Jesus' example in today's reading encourage you in suffering for his sake?*