*Lesson for 03/12/2017*

**Jesus Seeks Commitment on Last Day of the Feast**

John 7:32-52

*Attempt to Arrest Jesus*

32The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him. 33Then Jesus said to them, “I shall be with you a little while longer, and *then* I go to Him who sent Me. 34You will seek Me and not find *Me,* and where I am you cannot come.” 35Then the Jews said among themselves, “Where does He intend to go that we shall not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? 36What is this thing that He said, ‘You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come’?”

*Promise of the Holy Spirit*

37On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” 39But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believingin Him would receive; for the HolySpirit was not yet *given,* because Jesus was not yet glorified.

*Who Is He?*

40Therefore manyfrom the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.” 41Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Will the Christ come out of Galilee? 42Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?” 43So there was a division among the people because of Him. 44Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

*Rejected by the Authorities*

45Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why have you not brought Him?” 46The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this Man!” 47Then the Pharisees answered them, “Are you also deceived? 48Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? 49But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.”50Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, 51“Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?” 52They answered and said to him, “Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisenout of Galilee.”

*Questions:*

1. Why were the Pharisees now willing to join with the chief priests (normally their enemies) and send officers (temple guards) to arrest Jesus? What keeps preventing them from stopping Jesus? (review vs 30-32)

2. What does Jesus say that showed He was in control and knew exactly what would happen?

3. What confused the ones who wanted to arrest Him in his saying that He would soon leave them and they could not find Him? What do you think He meant by this?

4. The Jewish leaders scoffed at the idea that Jesus could go where they couldn't find Him saying "Is He planning to go out into the Greek world and teach the Greeks?".. though said in jest, was it prophetic?

5. On the last day of the feast Jesus cried out for those who believed to come to Him, saying the scripture promised them rivers of living water. What did this refer to? What must happen before this?

6. Some of the people who heard this invitation were ready to believe in Him, but why were others divided about Jesus? What did the scripture say that seemed to rule Jesus out as the Christ? (Note: He fulfilled all this.)

7. Vs 44 says even some of the people now wanted to seize Jesus, but why was no one (people or guards) able to?

8. When the officers returned to the religious leaders, what answer did they give for not bringing Jesus with them? What does this say about the words of Jesus?

9. How did the Pharisees again show their hardness of heart and refusal to change? How did they view others?

10. They claimed none of their own who knew the law well believed in Jesus? What did Nicodemus say that bravely called into question their statement and called them out on what the law did say?