

“Will You Be with Jesus?”  
(John 7:32-36)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

Last time,

We saw the Jews were divided

As to exactly who Jesus was:

The actions of their leaders didn't help matters.

One moment, they wanted to kill Him,

And they next they seemed to leave Him alone.

The fact that He was at the Feast –

Speaking out in public –

But they weren't doing anything about it,

Only further confused them.

Did this mean they now believed He was the Messiah?

John tells us this wasn't the case –

They didn't believe.

They still wanted to arrest Him –

They just didn't dare do it at the feast

In front of all those people.

That would have started a riot,

And brought the Romans into the picture.

No, they had to bide their time

Until Jesus was alone –

Then they would take Him.

The leaders didn't believe, but many of the Jews did:

They believed because of His miracles.

John writes, "But many of the crowd believed in Him; and they were saying, 'When the Christ comes, He will not perform more signs than those which this man has, will He?'" (v. 31).

Real miracles have evidential power –

They prove that Jesus is who He claimed to be –

They just couldn't believe

That anyone could do more

Than this man had done.

What Jesus did,

Proved He was

Who He said He was.

#### B. Preview.

The question we need to ask this morning is,

Did the Jewish leaders

Have any legitimate reason not to believe?

If anyone was without excuse, it was them:

They were the religious experts –

They knew the Scriptures better than anyone else;

They knew what the Christ would do when He came;

They knew God would allow only the Christ to do these things;

And they knew that Jesus had in fact done them.

In other words, *they knew He was the Christ.*

But knowing that's who He was,

What did they want to do?

Trust Him? Obey Him?

No, they wanted to arrest Him,

So that they might kill Him.

This is why Jesus says to them,

“Where I am, you cannot come.”

This morning, let's consider

1. What Jesus was really saying to them,
2. Why He said it,
3. And how we can escape His saying the same to us.

## II. Sermon.

A. First, let's consider what Jesus was really saying to them:

He was charging the Jewish leaders with the unpardonable sin.

We see this in verse 34.

Jesus says to the Jews, “You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come.”

1. To whom is Jesus speaking?

He appears to be speaking

To those who are mentioned in verse 32.

*“The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to seize Him” (v. 32).*

The Pharisees were also at the Feast.

They heard what the crowd was saying –

That Jesus had done more than enough

To prove to the people that He was the Christ –

And it concerned them enough to have Him arrested,

Not to mention the fact that He had healed on the Sabbath.

Their sending officers to arrest Him –

Appears to be what prompts Jesus

To say what He says in verses 33 and 34,

*“Therefore Jesus said, ‘For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me.’ You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come.’”*

## 2. What was He actually telling them?

a. He said first that would be with them

For only a little while longer –

This was the Feast of Booths.

The Passover –

The one at which He would be betrayed

And handed over to the Jews,

And then to the Romans to be crucified –  
Was only about 6 months away –  
He would be with them  
Just a little while longer.

b. After He would be crucified,

He would go to the One who sent Him –  
He would return to His Father.

His soul immediately went to be with the Father  
After His death on the cross.

Then, once He was raised –

When His soul returned to His body

And His body returned to life –

He spent another forty days

Teaching them about the kingdom of heaven,

Before He ascended again to the Father in heaven.

c. Jesus said that after this,

“You will seek Me, and will not find Me” –

Not that they would look *for Him*,

But they would continue to look

Expectantly for the coming of the Christ.

But they wouldn't find Him,

Because He had already come,

And they had rejected Him.

d. And then He said the most chilling thing of all:

“And where I am, you cannot come,”

That is, *you cannot come to heaven.*

Jesus will later tell His disciples something similar:

“Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’” (John 13:33).

In their case, though, He only meant for the time being –

They couldn’t come now,

But they would later.

“Simon Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, where are You going?’ Jesus answered, ‘Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later’” (v. 36).

In our passage, there doesn’t appear to be a later.

He says, “Where I am, you cannot come.”

These Jewish leaders would not be in heaven,

Because they had committed the sin

That has no forgiveness.

B. Second, let’s consider why Jesus charges them with this sin.

Why would they not be able to come?

Why did Jesus exclude them from heaven?

Is there a line you can cross over –

Is there a point of no return?

Is there a sin that God won't forgive?

Yes, there is!

1. Matthew tells us

That when Jesus had cast a demon

Out of a man who was blind and mute,

So that he could see and speak,

The leaders accused Him of being in league with the devil.

We read in Matthew 12:24, "But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, 'This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.'"

Why did they make this accusation?

They knew Satan would never have done this;

They knew God was the only One who would;

They knew Jesus must be the Messiah.

But they still purposely slandered Him

And the Spirit by which He did these things.

How do we know this is what they did?

This is exactly what Jesus tells them:

"And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, 'Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? For this reason they will be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong *man*? And then he will plunder his house. He

who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters” (vv. 25-30).

If they knew He was the Messiah,

Why did they do this?

It’s because they hated Him –

They were envious of His influence with the people.

The fact that He was the Messiah

Also threatened their position with Rome –

They didn’t want to give it up.

And so they slandered Jesus

By accusing Him of the foulest thing

They could think of:

He did this so-called “miracle”

By the foulest of all spirits – the devil.

What does such a crime deserve?

Jesus says, “Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come” (vv. 31-32).

Jesus says, it deserves damnation!

Actually, they already deserved damnation for their sins.

We all do, but for God’s grace.

This is a declaration that God

Will no longer offer them that grace

By which they might have been saved.

2. It is possible to so resist, grieve and offend the Spirit,

That He withdraws forever,

Making it impossible for you to repent, believe,

And so be saved by Jesus Christ.

These leaders, instead of receiving Jesus,

Instead of bowing down to Him

Because they knew He was the Messiah,

Called for officers to arrest Him.

If you choose to be God's enemies,

In the face of all His mercy and grace,

Eventually He will treat you like one.

They were so blinded by their sins,

They didn't understand what Jesus was saying.

They thought He was about to leave Palestine

And go to where the Jews had been dispersed

Throughout the Roman Empire

To preach to them and to the Gentiles.

We read in verse 35-36, "The Jews then said to one another, 'Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? He is not intending to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks, is He? What is this statement that He said, 'You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come'?"

But it was far worse than that:

He said they would never come to heaven.

C. Finally, how can you escape having the same sentence pronounced against you?

Is this a sin that can be committed today? Yes.

Have you committed it?

Will Jesus ever say these words to you?

1. The answer is no,

If you've already turned from your sins and trusted Jesus.

There is *no possibility* that you will ever fall under this condemnation:

You are safe –

Even if you fall into serious sin,

Like David and Peter did.

Jesus says, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and *they will never perish*; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father’s hand” (John 10:27-29).

Paul writes to the Philippians, “*For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus*” (1:6).

And he writes to the Romans, “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39).

If you have trusted Jesus,  
If you love Him and are following Him now,  
You will make it to heaven.  
Yes, there are times when you will fall into sin,  
But the Lord will never allow you to fall entirely away –  
*He will preserve you.*

2. But the same isn't true for those of you

Who haven't turned from your sins and trusted Him,  
Or if you think you have, but really haven't.  
You are always in danger of this sin.

If you continue to fight against the Spirit –  
As He speaks to you through His Word,  
As He shows you the danger you're in,  
As He presents Jesus to you in the Gospel –  
You will eventually reach a point of no return.

Those of you  
Who listen to the Gospel week after week  
And still won't trust Jesus  
Are particularly at risk.  
Every time the Spirit offers Jesus to you  
And you refuse,  
Your heart becomes a little harder,

And it will continue to harden  
Until you reach the point of no return.

You can reach this point before you die –  
As these Pharisees did.

You can so harden your heart against the Spirit,  
That He will stop working in you  
To bring you to Christ.

If that happens,  
There will be no hope for you.

If it doesn't happen before you die,  
It will certainly happen when you finally do –  
And the result will be the same:  
You will go down into hell  
And you will never come out.

3. What can you do to prevent this from happening?

There's only one thing: Come to Jesus.

Look to Him.

Believe in Him.

If you have any concern for your soul at all,

Then you haven't yet committed this sin.

When Jesus was on the cross,

One of the two thieves said to Him,  
“Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” (Luke 23:42).  
He expressed a simple act of faith –  
He believed Jesus was the Messiah,  
He trusted Him,  
And even though he was a criminal,  
And even though he was in the last moments of his life,  
He looked to Jesus and was saved.  
Jesus also told him  
What must be the most comforting words  
That anyone could ever hear:  
“Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise” (v. 43).  
  
This is what He’s said to you,  
If you’ve already trusted Him.  
You might not be with Him today –  
Though you might be,  
If today is the last day of your life –  
But it will happen,  
He will bring you to heaven.  
  
For those of you who haven’t trusted Him,  
This is what He *will* say to you,  
If you will only look to Him in faith,

If you will only trust Him this morning:

Not, “Where I am, you cannot come,”

But, “You shall be with Me in Paradise.”

If you haven’t trusted Him,

Do it now;

Look to Him now.

He invites you to come again this morning.

He wants you to come to Him.

If you come, you will live.

The only thing that stands between you and Him

Is the fact that you don’t want to come.

Look to Him to give you the power to come.

Look to Him to give you the power to turn from your sins.

Look to Him to give you the power to trust Him.

He is your only hope.

Look to Him and be saved. Amen.

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