

## **“Is This the Very Christ?”**

John 7:25-31

To some people, Jesus is a controversial figure. Some people think He is just a myth. Others think He is a prophet, and still others think He was a wise teacher who lived many years ago. But what do you think about Jesus? Who is He to you?

Hello friend, I'm J. Mark Horst, your host and I welcome you to *Hope for Today*. The program you're listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, we're an international Gospel media ministry. Each week the Bible teaching broadcasts of *Heralds of Hope* circle the globe in English and 21 other major languages.

If you're tuning in to *Hope for Today* for the very first time, we give you a special welcome. And if you've been a regular listener for a long time, we're glad you're here too. If you've been blessed by these weekly programs, we encourage you to tell others about it. Invite them to listen too, and tell them where they can tune in.

On each program we take a portion of God's Word and explain what it means and how it applies to our lives. If you're not yet a follower of Jesus, then, much of what we say won't make sense to you. But you can understand if you will open your heart to Jesus, because He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He has promised to reveal Himself to those who seek Him sincerely.

Now, if you've been tuning in regularly to *Hope for Today*, you know that we're studying from John's Gospel. Our Bible teacher for this series is the late Dr. J. Otis Yoder, founder, and president of Heralds of Hope. Here he is with today's teaching in the form of a question; “Is This the Very Christ?” And our Scripture portion is John 7:25 to 31.

Various religions and sects take different views regarding Jesus of Nazareth. Some say He was an outstanding miracle worker and indeed He was. Some say He was a prophet, maybe not quite equal to Moses but a very important prophet. We would say with them that's true.

Christians of every nation, however, believe Jesus to be the promised Messiah and the Saviour of all who accept Him, all who believe in Him. We call them believers. I have met them in many different places and from many different lands. For example, I have met believers from India. I have met Japanese believers. I have met a believer from Swaziland, from Ethiopia, from Egypt, from Greece, from Germany, from Lebanon, from Israel, from the United States and many

other countries. Yes, believers in every nation believe Jesus to be the Messiah, the One whom God had promised and the Savior of all who accept Him, all who believe in Him.

In every generation the question about Jesus must be answered, for to many people Jesus is a puzzle. They ask the question, **IS THIS THE VERY CHRIST?** Today we will find the answer in John 7:25-31.

*25 Then said some of them of Jerusalem, is not this he, whom they seek to kill?*

*26 But, lo, he speaks boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?*

*27 Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knows whence he is.*

*28 Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.*

*29 But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.*

*30 Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.*

*31 And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?*

Is this the very Christ? I propose to answer this question. Yes, yes, this is the very Christ. In this text are set forth several definite EVIDENCES which support my answer that this is the very Christ.

### **First is The Mystery of His Coming.**

In identity He was the one they wanted to kill. There was something mysterious about Him because they said, “We know where he comes from.” Yet they were very unsure about Him. They said, “Who is this man? Do the rulers really believe that he is the very Christ.” But they said they knew Him. Yes, you could go over there right now to the country where He lived. You could find the place where He grew up. You could find the town in which He was born. You could find the area where He ministered around the Sea of Galilee. They knew Him and yet there was something mysterious about Him because they were so unsure about Him.

The Bible predicted about the Messiah's coming. Genesis 3:15, that early, God said that the seed of the woman was going to crush the seed of the serpent. When Jacob bid his sons goodbye in Genesis 49, he said of Judah that the scepter should not depart from Judah until Shiloh come; unto him should the gathering of the people be. The prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 7:14 predicted the virgin birth. He said, "A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel, God with us."

Now I have only quoted three passages in the Old Testament predictions about the coming of Jesus. There's something of a mystery about His coming but that mystery clears up when you see the predictions in the Bible about Him.

### **Second is The Manner of His Coming.**

When Jesus replied to these people He said, "You know both me and you know where I come from and I have not come of myself, but He who sent me is true." He said, He had been sent by the True One. Now who might that be? Moses asked when God called him from the back side of the desert, "Whom shall I say sent me?" And God said to Moses, tell them, "I AM hath sent you." The prophet Isaiah speaking about God said there is no one like God. Who would they compare Him to? Jesus said, "He that sent me is true, whom ye know not. But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me."

It is possible for us to know God, too. Not in the same sense in which Jesus has known Him, but in a very real sense we can understand God. But the manner of Jesus' coming is very clearly set forth here. No one else has been able to make such claims. He was known by His neighbors and His family to be sure and yet He was unknown by them. The reason being He had been sent from God. That is the manner of His coming.

### **There is a Third evidence: The Miracles of His Coming**

They were not able to take Him. They would have but they were not able because His time had not yet come. They tried it but it did not work. We can very confidently say Jesus' life was kept until the time came for them to take Him. He Himself was a miracle. We are told in this text that many believed on Him because of the miracles which He performed. His miracles testified to His truthfulness. Thirty-eight are recorded in the Gospels that Jesus performed during His three

and a half years of ministry. No wonder they said, “When Christ comes will he do more miracles than these that this man had done?” Of course not, because He was the Christ.

Both His birth and His death were miracles. He was born of the virgin. No one else had been, or ever has been. He gave His life on the cross for you and me. He dismissed His spirit and sent it back to God. He said on one occasion, “Nobody takes it from me. I lay it down of myself. Then I take it up again.” His whole life was a miracle. The miracles of His coming are clear if you will study the record carefully.

The answer to the question then is this: He is the very Christ. Yes, on the ground of these evidences: the mystery of His coming, the manner of His coming and the miracle of His coming. My friend, if you study the record carefully you will find that the answer must be yes, this is the very Christ. Have you believed on Him?

Heavenly Father, we want to thank Thee for the clear teaching of Thy Word, for the words of Jesus so helpful and so sure. I'm asking now for my dear friend right there by his radio. May the Holy Spirit use these words to his great blessing as he turns his heart in faith to Jesus. I ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

My friend, do you know now who Jesus is? Yes, He is the Son of the living God, the true God, Jehovah, the Creator of all things. So, as we read the Gospels and especially this book of John that we're studying we understand that Jesus came to earth to provide a way for us to know God. Jesus came to deal with our sin problem so we could be restored to fellowship with God. Jesus gave His physical life on the cross so that we can be forgiven of our sins and adopted into God's family. Praise God!

My friend, I hope this teaching has blessed you. If you have questions, write to us here at *Hope for Today*. We will take your questions to God's Word and find answers for you.

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). That e-mail address is [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, “Is This the Very Christ?” I'd be happy to send one to you.

And friend, if you do not have a Bible, and you cannot afford to buy one, please let us know. We will gladly send a copy to you without charge. This offer is only for those who DO

NOT have a copy of God's Word and cannot afford to purchase one. If you meet those qualifications, you may request a copy of the Scriptures from us without cost.

Once again, the quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember; you can request a free copy of this teaching, "Is This the Very Christ?" It's available in print or on an audio CD. Or ask for your free copy of the Bible if you do not have a copy and can't afford to purchase one.

Now, I urge you to tune in next week as Dr. Yoder continues our study from John's Gospel with an important message titled "End the Search." You won't want to miss it. And until then, I urge you to keep looking for that blessed HOPE.