



## Gospel Community Notes & Questions

**Title:** Missing Jesus

**Text:** John 7:1-52

**Theme:** You must receive Jesus on his terms in order to receive him at all.

**Teaching Notes:** When Jesus went up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Booths, there was significant disagreement over his identity. Many just wanted a Messiah they could use for their own ends. Many were curious, but not convinced. Many more overtly hated and rejected him. But there are three keys in this story to receiving Jesus on his own terms, inviting us to answer, "What will you do with Jesus?"

### Outline:

#### 1. Six ways to miss Jesus. (6 key words)

a. Using. (vv. 2-5)

- Manipulating Jesus to accomplish your own goals.

b. Confusing. (vv. 10-12, 14-15, 25-27, 35-36, 40-43)

- Who are you? Where did you come from? Are you good? Evil?

c. Refusing. (vv. 13, 47-49)

- "Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him."

d. Accusing. (v. 20)

- "You have a demon!"

e. Abusing. (vv. 19, 25, 32, 44-45)

- Jesus is disrupting your plans and must be killed.

f. Amusing. (v. 46)

- Jesus is merely interesting, entertaining.

#### 2. Three keys to receiving Jesus.

a. Understand his mission.

- He was sent by the Father to heal and save the broken.

b. Understand his message.

- His words are the true and reliable words of God.

c. Understand his mandate.

- He came to lay down his life at Passover as the sacrifice for our sins.



**Questions to explore individually and with your group:**

1. Of *using*, *confusing*, *refusing*, *accusing*, *abusing*, and *amusing*, which unhealthy postures toward Jesus do you most identify with? Why do you say that?
2. What are some ways a person could *use* Jesus, all the while thinking they're trusting and following him?
3. What do you personally find most confusing about the person or work of Jesus? What have you done to resolve that confusion?
4. How does your current academic/vocational/political/cultural environment disciple you think and talk about Jesus and the Bible? Describe a situation when you felt the pressure of verse 13, "*For fear of the Jews, no one spoke openly of him.*" What did you do?
5. How would you finish this sentence? Jesus came to \_\_\_\_\_. What is the biblically correct answer? What are some other answers you subconsciously default to in everyday life? How do those other answers get you off track?
6. Think about the messages that have the greatest influence on your life choices. What are they? Who are the messengers? What motivates those messengers?
7. What are some key attributes that set Jesus' message apart from that of the Jewish religious leaders? Who in our culture today reflects the spirit of the religious leaders, in opposition to Jesus?
8. Why did Jesus talk so much about his "time" and his "hour"? What impact do you think that had on the way he lived his life?
9. What will you do this week to better understand the historic Jesus and accept him on his own terms?
10. What one actionable thing will you do this week in response to this Scripture?

**Prayer Prompts:**

1. Praise God for sending Jesus to make God knowable and known.
2. Confess how and where you're missing the authentic Jesus and acknowledge the underlying reasons why that's the case.
3. Ask God to give you the eyes to see, the ears to hear, and the heart and mind to trust that Jesus is worthy of your love, your worship, your allegiance, your surrender, and your obedience.