

This past month we have recalled some of those who were seeking Jesus at the time of his birth.

After hearing a message from the angel, the shepherds said, “Let us go quickly as far as Bethlehem and let us see the word of the event that the Lord made known to us.” Then going with all haste they looked for it, even Mary and Joseph, but especially the newborn lying in the feeding crib.

After seeing a sign in the heavens, the wise men traveled from the East seeking a new King of the Jews even though they didn’t know where to find him.

After hearing from the wise men, King Herod himself was seeking Jesus, although for much less honorable reasons.

The reality is that not everyone who encounters Jesus does so from the same starting point.

The reality is that not everyone is fully ready to find Jesus when we try to “bring them to Jesus.”

What causes this difference between various groups of people? The answer likely lies in what they have already heard about Jesus – from us and from others.

The key to our evangelism next year rests in helping others “find” Jesus by preparing them to realize that Jesus is Sent from God.

(Read Passage Throughout)

A. The Crowd Seeking Jesus (John 7:10–13)

1. The crowd has various opinions regarding Jesus

- A. Some see him as a “good man” (John 7:12a)
- B. Others see him as a deceiver (John 7:12b)

B. Seeking the teaching of Jesus (John 7:14–18)

1. Jesus’ teaching is unanticipated (John 7:15)

2. How to Evaluate Jesus’ teaching (7:17–18)

- A. To know if Jesus is from God, one must be willing to follow God (7:17)
- B. One must be seeking God’s glory (7:18)

C. Seeking the Messiah (John 7:25–27)

1. Are the Authorities seeking to remove Jesus or not (7:25–26)

2. What does the crowd seem to know about the Messiah? (7:27)

- A. Where is Jesus actually from?
 - A. Nazareth? Bethlehem?

D. What happens when you “Find” Jesus (John 7:28–32)

1. Jesus will proclaim the truth of his identity (7:28–29)

- A. God Sent Jesus (7:28)
- B. Jesus is from God (7:29)

2. The Truth will cause some to try to displace Jesus (7:30)

- A. The Crowd (7:30)
- B. The Powerful (7:32)

3. His activities and his Words will cause “many” to consider his True Identity (7:31)

- A. Jesus’ wondrous activities demonstrate his identity

E. Time is not on our Side when waiting to Seek Jesus (John 7:33–36)

1. Jesus controls his accessibility (7:33–34)

2. We can often misinterpret Jesus’ words

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Concluding Points

We must be willing to follow God to know whether Jesus is from God (7:17). Indeed, following God must become our identity.

We must continuously consider the truth of Jesus’ revealed identity (7:28–29)

We must declare the Signs of Jesus to prepare others to recognize his true identity (7:31)

We must never try to sell people on a false identity for Jesus.