

Title: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - John 7:30-53

Read:

³⁰⁻³¹They were looking for a way to arrest him, but not a hand was laid on him because it wasn't yet God's time. Many from the crowd committed themselves in faith to him, saying, "Will the Messiah, when he comes, provide better or more convincing evidence than this?" ³²⁻³⁴The Pharisees, alarmed at this seditious undertow going through the crowd, teamed up with the high priests and sent their police to arrest him. Jesus rebuffed them: "I am with you only a short time. Then I go on to the One who sent me. You will look for me, but you won't find me. Where I am, you can't come." ³⁵⁻³⁶The Jews put their heads together. "Where do you think he is going that we won't be able to find him? Do you think he is about to travel to the Greek world to teach the Jews? What is he talking about, anyway: 'You will look for me, but you won't find me,' and 'Where I am, you can't come'?" ³⁷⁻³⁹On the final and climactic day of the Feast, Jesus took his stand. He cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Rivers of living water will brim and spill out of the depths of anyone who believes in me this way, just as the Scripture says." ⁴⁰⁻⁴⁴Those in the crowd who heard these words were saying, "This has to be the Prophet." Others said, "He is the Messiah!" But others were saying, "The Messiah doesn't come from Galilee, does he? Don't the Scriptures tell us that the Messiah comes from David's line and from Bethlehem, David's village?" So there was a split in the crowd over him. Some went so far as wanting to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him. ⁴⁵That's when the Temple police reported back to the high priests and Pharisees, who demanded, "Why didn't you bring him with you?" ⁴⁶The police answered, "Have you heard the way he talks? We've never heard anyone speak like this man." ⁴⁷⁻⁴⁹The Pharisees said, "Are you carried away like the rest of the rabble? You don't see any of the leaders believing in him, do you? Or any from the Pharisees? It's only this crowd, ignorant of God's Law, that is taken in by him—and damned." ⁵⁰⁻⁵¹Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus earlier and was both a ruler and a Pharisee, spoke up. "Does our Law decide about a man's guilt without first listening to him and finding out what he is doing?" ⁵²⁻⁵³But they cut him off. "Are you also campaigning for the Galilean? Examine the evidence. See if any prophet ever comes from Galilee." Then they all went home.

Think:

Have you ever got into trouble for something that was taken the wrong way? Maybe you said something to a brother or sister and Mum and Dad snapped at you. But that's not what you meant to come out, you didn't mean for it to sound that way. Perhaps you were doing something at school or college and an adult ripped your head off because they didn't understand your intentions. Misunderstood? Man, it is rubbish when people take what we do and say the wrong way. But we are in good company. If anyone was misunderstood from his birth to his crucifixion, it was Jesus. He was misunderstood by those who wanted him to come to Earth and misunderstood by those that hated him. Here is Jesus the Son of God going about his Earthly life teaching and preaching and the local coppers are accusing him of all sorts of stuff. So how does Jesus react? Well ultimately Jesus dies on the cross for those that loved him and for those that hated him. Now that's pretty sacrificial. We might need a lot of strength from God to bite our lips when people misunderstand us and accuse us of all sorts of things, but maybe that's the place to start. Our first instinct might be to lose our rag and shout back at them; but instead, pausing and taking a deep breath would be a good start. Counting to ten and then saying something like "I understand how you could think that my intention was that, but this is what I really meant." It's the counting to ten and pausing that will be hard, but hey if Jesus can die on the cross for those who hate him, perhaps we should give counting to ten a try.

Pray:

Lord, please give me the patience I need to explain my actions to people when they misunderstand my intentions. Amen.

Action:

Have you shouted at anyone recently? Is there any chance you misunderstood them? Maybe it's time to go and talk to them. Bye for now.