

# *Who is Jesus?*

Walking a narrow path in the mountains.

Vertical granite to the right, steep drop to the left.

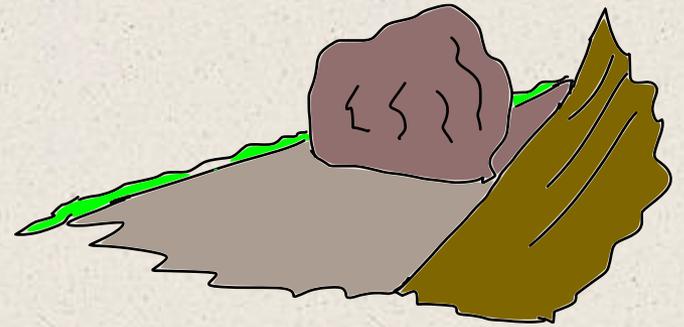
Turn a corner – there is a big boulder across the path ...

... jump off

... climb up

... go back

... find a way over ...



**Jesus is like that big rock**

in the middle of the path of history

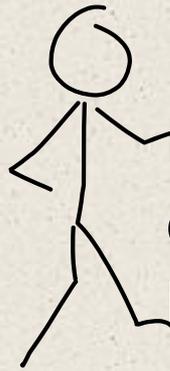
each member of the human race has to face what to make  
of Jesus

... **he challenges**

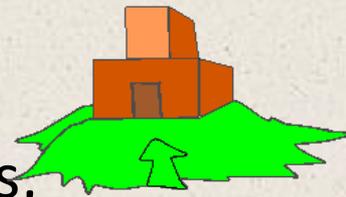
... **he perplexes**

... **but he refuses to be ignored!**

# Who is Jesus?



In these 2 chapters various people confront Jesus, or are confronted by him ... what thoughts do they have? What answers do they arrive at?



First – set the context: where, who, when?

## Where?

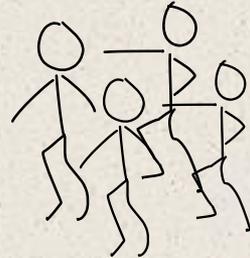
- in Jerusalem – capital “holy city” in the south

7:1 Jesus was “up north”. It was safer

7:10 he went down to Jerusalem quietly (“in secret” v.10)

➔ NOT “show yourself openly”

➔ Jesus had his own way of being “lifted up”, and a timescale fixed on the cross



# Who is Jesus?

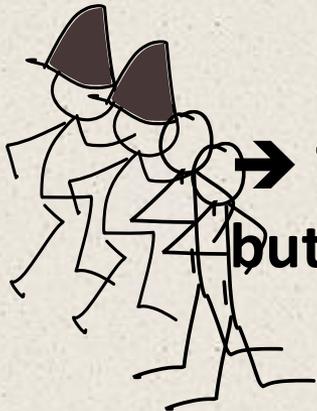
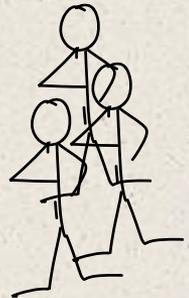
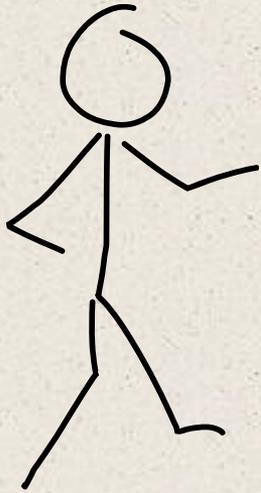
In these 2 chapters various people confront Jesus, or are confronted by him ... what thoughts do they have? What answers to they arrive at?

## Who?

Various people:

- 7:1,15 the Jews (usually meaning leaders “deceiver”v.12)
- 7:20 the crowd (from the north)
- 7:25 the people of Jerusalem (in the know)
- 7:32 the Pharisees (“strict lay people”)
- 7:32 the chief priests (“privileged high ups”)
- 7:40 “some of the people”
- 7:43 there was a division

→ **They all thought they were “ok with God!” – but Jesus says they are not**



# Who is Jesus?

**When?**

- the Feast of Booths/ Tabernacles  
(*sukoth*)

= national memory of camping in the  
**desert**, provision of water, and pillar of  
fire and cloud to guide

= golden flagon filled with **water** taken  
to temple by High Priest *"he who has not  
seen the joy of the place of water-drawing  
has never in his life seen joy"* Jewish Mishnah

+ lighting of **4 huge lamps** in the  
temple court + blowing, trumpet, dancing  
and celebration

→ **most popular feast (Josephus)**

→ **Jesus puts himself at the centre!**



# Who is Jesus?



At the feast of Tabernacles, in Jerusalem:

The chapters contain an interwoven story of

*misunderstanding, confusion, division over the recognition of who Jesus is*

1. *Over his teaching - words*
2. *Over his origin - Christ*



# Who is Jesus? – confusion and division



1. Over his teaching (authority)  
- **Is Jesus someone we should take at his word?**

v.46 “no one ever spoke like this man”

v.14 in the temple teaching

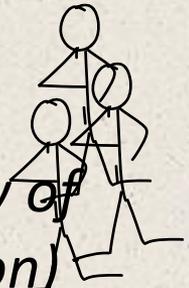
v.14 amazement (v.21)

v.15 how does this man know **letters** (writing = law and prophets) ... not studied

(v.20 ... you have a demon...)

v.21 Jesus: **Moses** gave you circumcision ... + sabbath (7<sup>th</sup> day of rest in law of Moses, following God’s working week in creation)

- Law – word #6 “you shall not murder”





# Who is Jesus? – confusion and division..

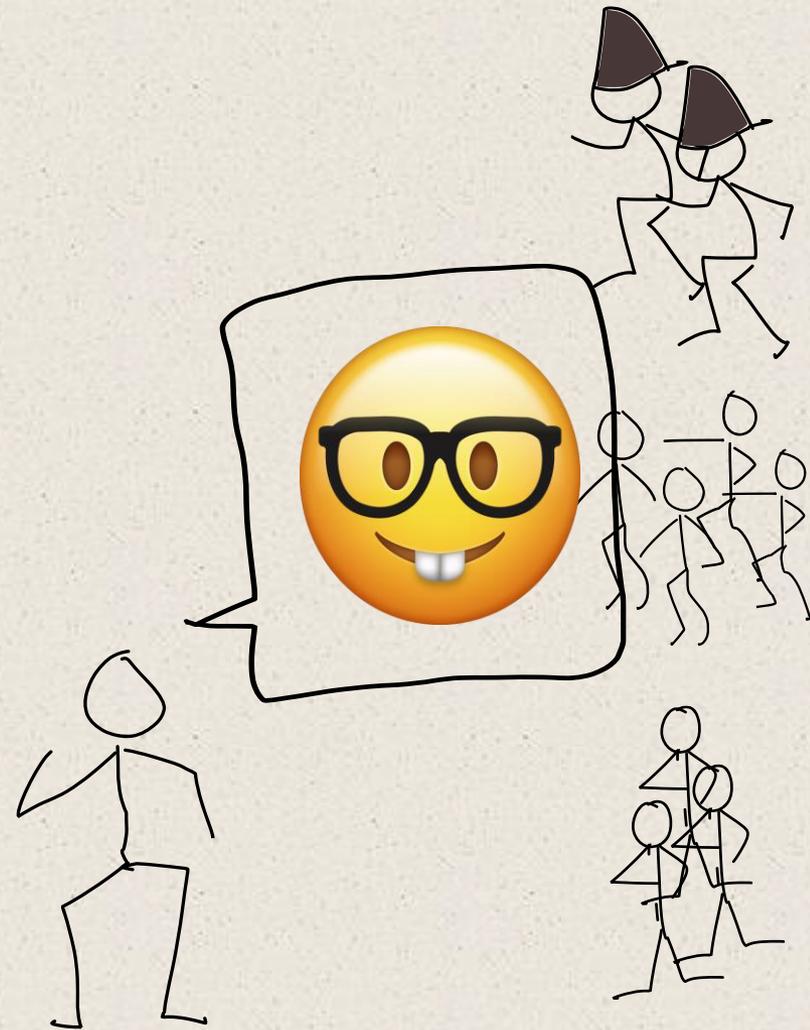
1. Over his teaching ...  
- **Is Jesus someone we should take at his word?**

*He does not speak off his own bat  
N.B. anyone can say fanatical, selfish,  
and untrue things off his own  
authority – e.g. verbal “selfie” – look  
at me*

*v. 16 my teaching is not from me, but  
rather from the Sender of me  
= from God the Father*

*➔ If you have [seen] me you have  
[seen] the Father*

**Objection: how can we know that?**



# Who is Jesus? - his teaching

**How can we know that?**

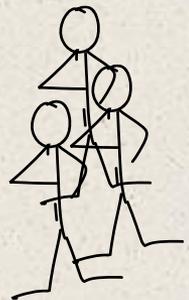
**A#1 look at what I do**

v.21 I actioned one work ...

=To heal and restore to function a whole man ... on the day of rest and refreshment given  
to do people good

**Compare:** v.19 you [=leaders] seek to kill me [see Word#6]

- ➔ Which of these is most admirable?  
Which is most credible?
- ➔ Believe someone who does good as reflecting God's nature
- ➔ Believe someone who does evil?



# Who is Jesus? – his teaching

## How can we know that?

A#2 Look at why I do it

v.18 the one who speaks from himself seeks his own glory

v.18 the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true

= i.e. basic orientation of approval

Do I say this to look good, to get approval, for my own glory, for my own pleasure ... or for the glory and approval of God

➔ Look at my life, and see “why”

➔ who would you prefer to believe, a self-centred narcissist, or a self-less God-centred person of integrity



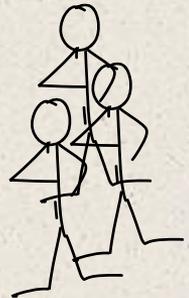
# Who is Jesus? – his teaching

**How can we know that?**

**A#3 Look at why you do things**

v.17 if anyone's will is to do God's will then he will know whether I am speaking on my own ...

- ➔ Do you want to know whether Jesus can be taken at his word
- ➔ Then decide that you really want to know, and that you will do whatever the God wants
- ➔ my life, my money, my leisure time, my family, my outward life, my inner thoughts, my present, my future ... all God's will ...
- ➔ Then you will know ... otherwise you will be always seeking, but never coming to knowledge of the truth (2 Tim 3:7)



# Who is Jesus? – his teaching

*Confusion, misunderstanding and division about Jesus*

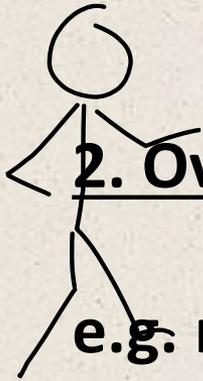
1. *Over his teaching – its authority*  
**- Is Jesus someone we should take at his word?**

- **Look at his deeds**
- **Look at his motivation**
- **Tell God you really want to know and will do what ever he shows you is true**

**➔ No confusion, but God-given certainty through faith**



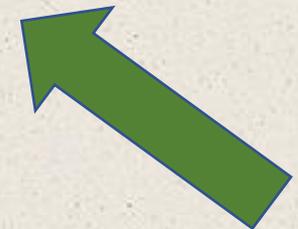
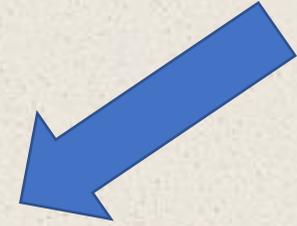
# Recognising Jesus – misunderstanding, confusion and division



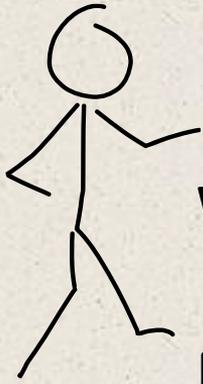
## 2. Over his origin

**e.g. my drill battery**

- *The real thing – from Germany*
- *An inferior copy – from China*
  
- *The imitation will deceive me, let me down, not see me through, not have the power I need*
- The real thing I can trust,
  - will give me power,
  - get me through,
  - will not let me down
  - ➔ that's what I want in a Saviour



# *Recognising Jesus – misunderstanding, confusion and division*



**What is at stake is whether Jesus is really the Christ**

**N.B. The Christ (20:31 “that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God and that believing you will have life in his name”**

= the Christ = King, Prophet, Priest

= the bread which gives eternal life (ch 6)

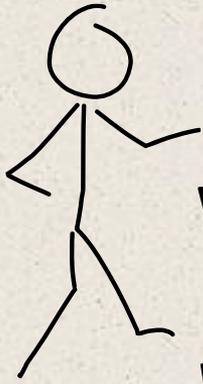
= God’s go-between heaven and earth

= ~~ a way, a bridge

**➔ *What we need is that mediator, that “way to God”, holds the hand of God and the hand of us ... who can be relied upon and won’t let us down in the end***



# *Recognising Jesus – misunderstanding, confusion and division*



**What is at stake is whether Jesus is really the Christ??**

*v.12 a good man*

*v.13 a deceiver = lead people astray*

*v.20 you have a demon ...*

*v.26 can this be the Christ?*

*v.27b when the Christ comes no-one will know where he comes from (=?mystery)*

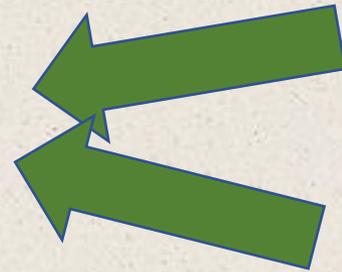
*v.27a we know where this man comes from (from Galilee = up north)*

*v.40 this is the Prophet*

*v.41 this is the Christ ... No, he is from Galilee*

*v.42 the son of [King] David, comes from Bethlehem*

**➔ Earthly origins ...**

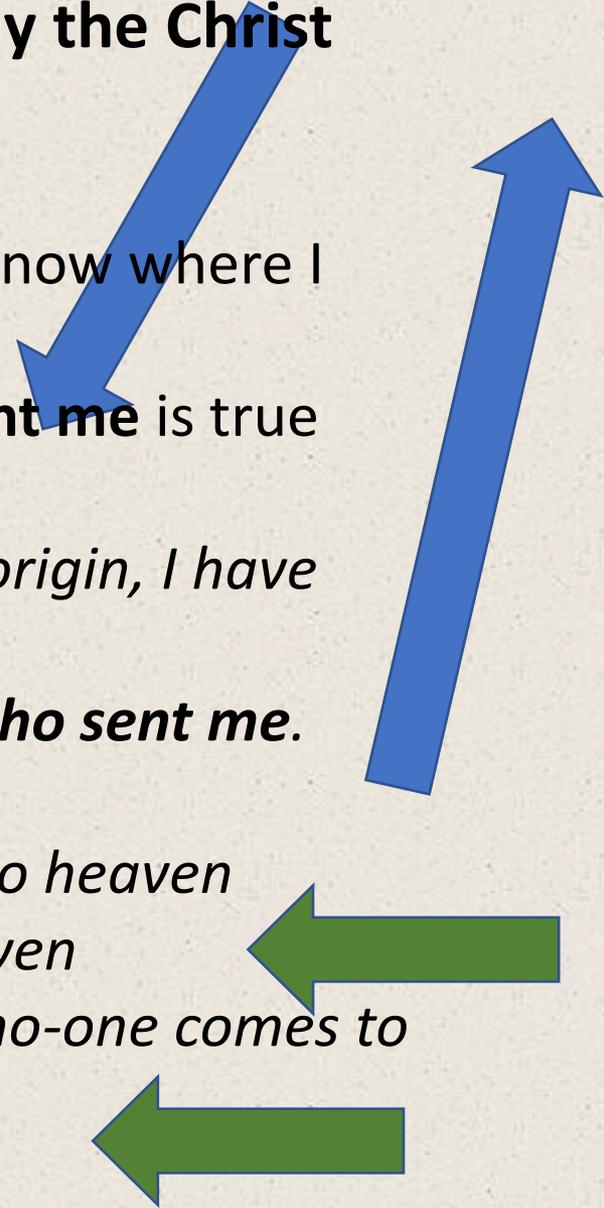


# *Recognising Jesus – misunderstanding, confusion and division*

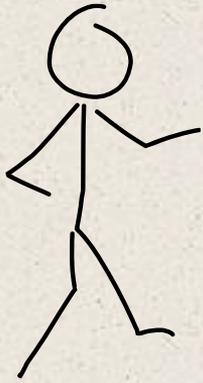


**What is at stake is whether Jesus is really the Christ**

- From Galilee, from Bethlehem?
- Jesus says v.28 “you know me, and you know where I come from [NOT!]”
- I have not come from myself, he **who sent me** is true him you do NOT know
- → *you are actually ignorant of my true origin, I have been **sent from heaven**, from the Father*
- *V.30 in a little while I **am going to him who sent me**. Where I am you cannot come*
- *= I come from heaven, and will go back to heaven*
- → *N.B. without me you can't get to heaven*
- → *“I am the way the truth and the life, no-one comes to the Father except through me” 14:8*



# *Recognising Jesus – misunderstanding, confusion and division*



## **2. Over his origin – sent from heaven ...**

The Christ comes from Bethlehem – home of King David = yes

BUT more importantly he comes from heaven and goes to heaven

He alone can take us to heaven 14:2 “... I go to prepare a place for you ... I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you also may be ...”

➔ Precious promise for every believer!



# *Recognising Jesus – misunderstanding, confusion and division*

In Jesus' day he was at the centre of misunderstanding, confusion and division ... as he still is today ...

**2. Origin:** He came from heaven – sent by the Father to save

- and goes back to heaven
- the Christ the son of God
- he brings people to heaven

**1. Authority:** He can be taken at his word

- Look at the things he did – doing good like the LORD God
  - That's the sort of person I would like to trust
- They way he did them – for God's glory not his own
  - That integrity gives me a lot of confidence ..
- Make sure that you are wanting to do God's will
  - God put that in my heart ... if you are unsure ask him to put it in yours

- Rock of obstacle, challenge, hindrance
- Ladder to heaven! →

