

The big question ...

Life or death ... stand or fall ...

Whether Liz Truss will U-turn on economy?

- *bigger!*

What is key to human flourishing?

- human rights ... inclusivity ... ethnicity ... sexuality

- *bigger*

Whether you believe in religion/god/God

- *lots of believers in lots of gods/Gods*

The big question is:

- ***who is Jesus***

... not many options:

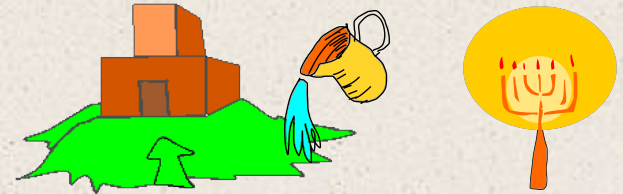
e.g. MAD, BAD, GOD

- same question here: 8:25 “who are you?”

- life or death ... stand or fall ... let's work on this!



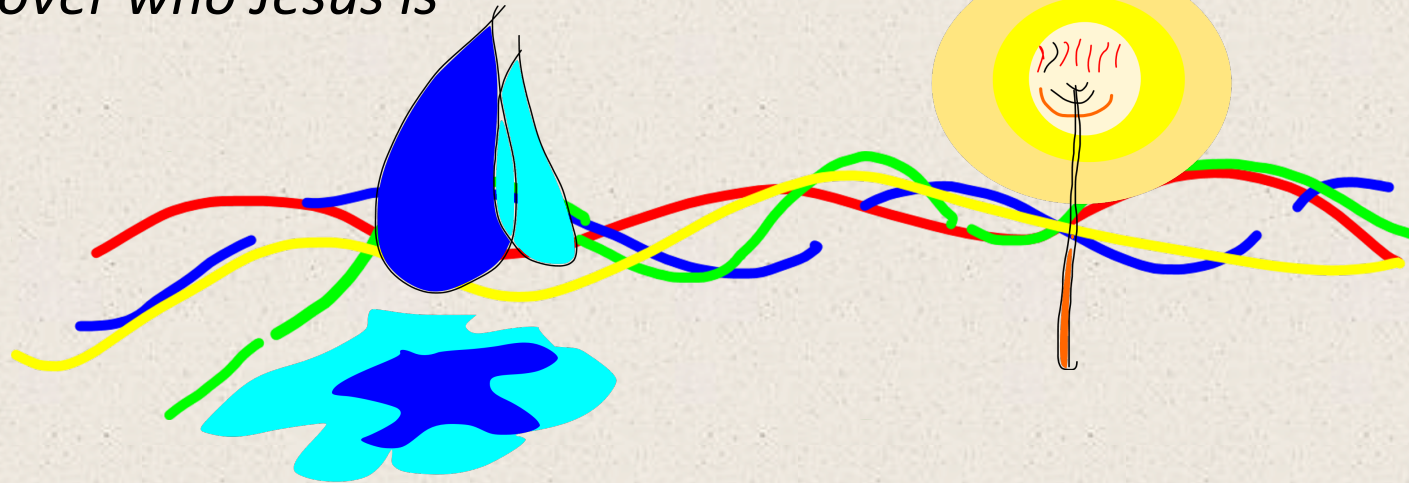
Who is Jesus?



Context: Jesus at the feast of Tabernacles (tents/lights/water), in Jerusalem:

The chapters 7+8 contain an *interwoven* [not like Paul] story of

- *misunderstanding, confusion, division*
- *over who Jesus is*



PLUS: Two great claims and invitations

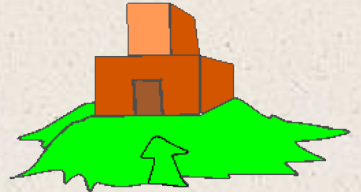
- 7:37 *If anyone is thirsty come and drink*
- 8:12 *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me ... will have the light of life"*



Who is Jesus?



The discussion/argument goes round on various topics



1. His origin

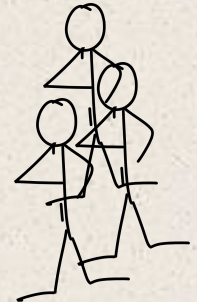
- ought to be unknown 7:27
- ought to come from Bethlehem 7:41
- 7:42 ... but he comes from Galilee
- Jesus: 7:28 sent from heaven

2. His authority

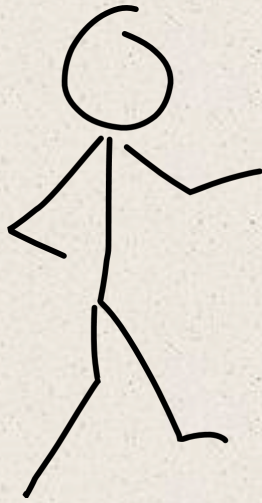
- v.17 will know teaching from God
- confirmation of witness of Father 8:18
- 8:28 [hear me = hear the Father]

N.B. all this in the context

- a. the signs Jesus has been doing
- b. the Hebrew Scriptures (=Moses) = Father



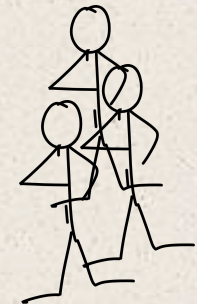
Who is Jesus?



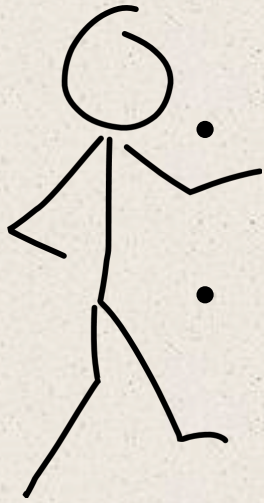
In these 2 chapters various people confront Jesus, or are confronted by him ... what thoughts do they have? What answers do they arrive at?

In this passage 8:12-30

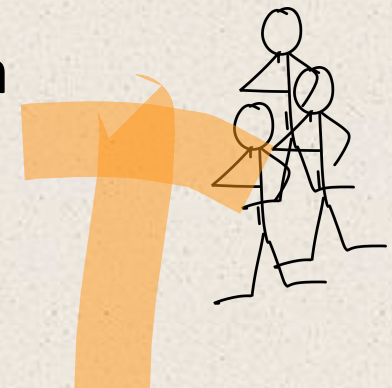
1. His destination
2. Their destiny



Who is Jesus? 1. His destination



- v.14 I know where I came from and *where I am going*, but you do not know
- v.21 *I am going away* and you will seek me ... *Where I am going* you cannot come
 - v.22 [death] ??? Will he kill himself ???
- (7:34 I will be with you a little longer, and *then I am going to him* who sent me. You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come”
 - ??? V.35 going to “Diaspora”)
- = Jesus personal certainty about his origin and **his definite destination**



Who is Jesus? 1. His destination



Jesus made a point of this **to his disciples**:

13:33 "yet a little while I am with you .. Where I am going you cannot come"

14:2 "I go to prepare a place for you ..."



Jesus was very clear that he came in order to go

- Go = to the Father via the cross
 - ➔ deliberate knowing costly self-sacrifice
 - *E.g. entering to a posh restaurant ... you know how much this is going to cost??*
- Go = to prepare a place for you
 - ➔ e.g. *"left me to park the car, nipped off ahead ..."* ➔ *gone to get the best seat*
 - ➔ *not indifference, laziness, but anticipated pleasure*

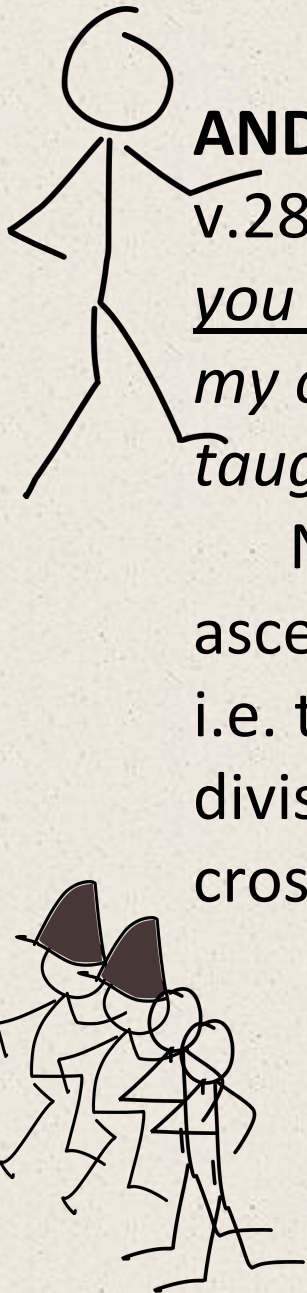
Who is Jesus? 1. His destination

AND

v.28 *"when you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I nothing on my own authority, but speak as the Father has taught me"*

N.B.: lifting up = on the cross → resurrection / ascension

i.e. to all this confusion, misunderstanding, division, there is a resolution ... in the "lifting up" = cross/empty tomb



Who is Jesus? 1. His destination

i.e. resolution = “then you will know...”



- 2:22 **“when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word he had spoken”**

- 12:16 **“His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him”**



→ the cross/resurrection complete the jigsaw puzzle
e.g. forming **a strong arch** – with the last brick



→ believer: are you confident?

→ not-yet-believer: you can be confident ! “then you will know” v.28 (and v.30)

Who is Jesus?



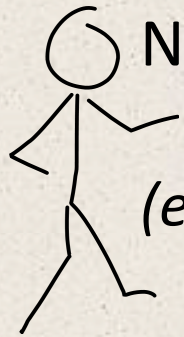
In these 2 chapters various people confront Jesus, or are confronted by him ... what thoughts do they have? What answers to they arrive at?

In this passage

1. His destination
2. Their destiny



2. Their destiny



N.B. they think they are “spiritually OK”

- v.33 *they inherit the blessing of Abraham through their (ethnic) genes*

v.41 *we are not illegitimate ... God is our Father*

v.55 *Jesus: you have not known him*

- ➔ The phenomenon of false spiritual security
- ➔ I’m basically a good person ... ➔ make Jesus a waste of space
- ...
- ➔ we go to church (occasionally) ... like going to a stable makes you a horse
- ➔ we come from a spiritual family ... like Abraham’s??
- ➔ we used to be very keen Christians
 - ➔ v.39 *you would be doing (present tense)...*
- ➔ *beware the danger of false security*



2. Their destiny

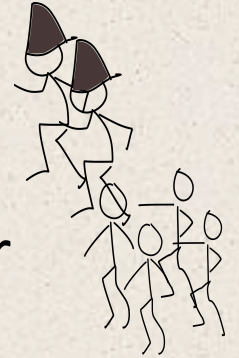


The danger of false security

= v.24 “unless you believe, you will die in your sins”

N.B. no further chances when you die, choices are for this life ...

- *e.g. stain unremoved ... (like paint on a carpet)*
- *e.g. penalty unpaid ... (like an unpaid debt)*
- *e.g. conscience uncleansed ... (pain of memory)*
- *e.g. in bleakest, most lost, despair (like quicksand)*
- **UNLESS**
- **UNLESS**
- **UNLESS**



2. Their destiny



= v.24 "... you will die in your sins"

UNLESS:

"you believe that I am [he]"

There is a remedy for sin(s)

- Stain, Penalty, Guilt, State
- (and eventually the presence)

Need real, realistic faith in Jesus

= "believe that I am [he]"

- i.e. all that he said he was
- darkness: he is light → follow him
- he underwent darkness to replace our darkness with light
- thirst: he gives water of life → come and drink of him



"there is a flowing river ... from the cross"

Who is Jesus?



1. His destination

- come from the Father
- **going to** the Father via the cross
- ... to die to prepare a place for me
- ➔ do you believe this?

2. Their destiny

- do you have false spiritual security?
- danger: die in your sins ...
- ("I'll be OK")

REMEDY

- "believe that I am he" (v.30)
- cost of living has gone up! Recognise a good deal ...
- which sensible person would not take up that offer?

