

What does John 7:27 mean? "Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is." It is true that no man knows where the Christ is when he comes? How is that explained?? Also Jesus's response makes no sense. It sounds like he doesn't get what the question is. Please if you can explain this. I want to believe but I really see many inconsistencies in Christianity.

Jesus encountered division in Jerusalem (Jn 7:11-53). People there reacted differently to him at the Festival of Shelters.¹ Opinions about Jesus ranged from he was: a good man (7:11–12), a deceiver (7:13), one demon-possessed (7:20), an ordinary man (7:25–27, 41b–42), a prophet (7:40) and the Messiah (7:31, 41a).²

Regarding John 7:27 C.G. Kruse wrote:

On the surface they appear to be saying that the genealogy and birthplace of the Messiah were unknown. Clearly, this was not the case, for it was well known that the Messiah was to be of the lineage of David and that his birthplace was to be Bethlehem (42; Mic. 5:2/Matt. 2:4–6). The Jerusalemites thought they knew where Jesus came from, for he was commonly thought to be from Nazareth (1:45; 18:5, 7; 19:19), the village in which he grew up, but not where he was born.

The Jerusalemites did not have all their facts right. Because they thought they knew where Jesus came from, they believed he could not possibly be the Messiah. They believed the identity of the Messiah would not be known until he was revealed in glory. This belief is reflected in 4 Ezra (= 2 Esdras) 13:52: 'He said to me, "Just as no-one can explore or know what is in the depths of the sea, so no-one on earth can see my Son or those who are with him, except in the time of his day" ' (NRSV). It is also reflected in the dialogue between the Christian apologist Justin Martyr and Trypho, his Jewish opponent. Trypho said to Justin, 'But Messiah, if indeed He has ever been and now exists anywhere, is unknown, and does not even know Himself at all nor has any power, until Elijah shall have come and anointed Him, and shall have made Him manifest to all' (Dialogue with Trypho viii.4).³

What mattered then and what matters still today is: What did Jesus claim? Since he died and rose again one would do well to heed his claims. Jesus said that: his mission and message originated from God (7:14–18, 28–29); the people in his audience did not keep the law of Moses and wanted to kill him (7:19); both healing and circumcising are permitted by the law to be done on the Sabbath (7:21–24) and, he would soon leave and they would be unable to find him (7:33–36).

Jesus lets men decide for themselves who he is. When one truly wants to know him, he makes himself known to him. A.W. Tozer said, "He waits to be wanted."⁴ The moment one believes, the Lord gives him: eyes to see, ears to hear and a heart to understand (Mt 13:15) all things (1 Jn 2:27).

¹ From the people (7:11–13, 20, 25–27, 30–32, 40–53) and from the Pharisees (7:30, 32, 44–53) Willmington, H. L. (1999). *The Outline Bible* (Jn 7:6–39). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

² *Ibid* Jn 7:11–31.

³ Kruse, C. G. (2003). *John: an introduction and commentary* (Vol. 4, pp. 187–188). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

⁴ Tozer, A.W. (2015). *The Pursuit of God*. Edinburgh, Scotland: Cross Reach Publications.