

# John 7:30-36. Christ Speaks of Going Where His Enemies Could Not Come.

by Favell Lee Mortimer

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*Jesus warns his enemies that they will not find him, but God's mercy and love extend to all people, and those who desire to be with him will be with him in heaven.*

**Scripture:** Proverbs 1:28, Isaiah 55:8, Luke 16:23, John 7:34, John 12:26

**Topics:** "Eternal Life", "Gods Mercy"

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## Description

Favell Lee Mortimer reflects on the discourse of Jesus in the temple, warning his enemies that a time will come when they will seek Him but not find Him, a fate that awaits all unbelievers who die impenitent. Despite the misunderstanding of Christ's enemies, God's mercy extends even to the Gentiles, as seen in His purpose of sending the gospel to all nations. Mortimer emphasizes the importance of desiring to be where Jesus is, as His promise ensures that His servants will be with Him in glory for eternity.

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## Transcript

The discourse our Savior publicly delivered in the temple, offended his enemies so much, that they sent men to take him. These men found him preaching. Jesus knew for what purpose they were come, and he uttered a dreadful warning in their presence, telling them that he should be with them only a little while, and that then they should seek him, and should not find him, adding, "Where I am, there you cannot come." The Jews experienced the truth of these words when the city of Jerusalem was taken, and they looked in vain for the promised Messiah to deliver them--but found no deliverer.

It will also be fulfilled in the experience of every unbeliever, unless he repent. A time will come to all the ungodly, who die impenitent, when they will seek Christ and not find him, and when they will desire in vain to reach the place where he is. Such a day came to the rich man, when he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and saw Lazarus afar off, and heard that there was a great gulf between them, which none could pass. How dreadful it will be to see Christ afar off, and to find the compassionate Savior deaf to our entreaties! Such a day is spoken of in Prov. 1, "Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me, for that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord."

But Christ's enemies did not even understand the warning He had given. They only expressed to each other their wonder, "Can he be going to teach the dispersed Jews who live in Gentile countries," or can he

be going to teach the Gentiles themselves?

They thought it a thing impossible that Gentiles should be taught; they imagined that they were unworthy of the least notice from God, and that they would be left to perish in heathen ignorance. But God thought not so; his thoughts were not as their thoughts; even then he had purposes of mercy towards our savage forefathers. He saw them wandering with painted skins among their forests of oak, and offering up their children to horrible idols. He saw them, He pitied, and He sent (if not an apostle) the convert of an apostle, to proclaim in their untutored ears his glorious gospel. Our fathers sought him, and they found him, and many of them are now with God. Where they are, and where Jesus is, we desire to come.

Jesus has not yet said to us, "Where I am there you cannot come." Shall he ever say it? He never will, if it is our heart's warm desire to be where he is. Has he not said, "Where I am, there shall my servant be?"

This was the sweet verse that an aged minister often repeated in his dying hours--

And when I'm to die,

"Receive me," I'll cry;

For Jesus has loved me,

I cannot tell why;

But this I can find,

We two are so joined,

He'll not be in glory

And leave me behind.

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