

# “Who do You Say I Am?” ~ Jesus

John 7:1-52  
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## Reactions to Jesus:

1. The brothers of Jesus were confused and skeptical. (John 7:1-5)
2. The crowd was misguided. (John 7:12, 20)
3. The religious leaders were antagonistic and disbelieving. (John 7:32)
4. Nicodemus embraced Jesus as the Christ and followed Him. (John 7:50.51, 3:1-6, 12:42, 19:38-40)

“So I had to believe in God to accept Jesus. But couldn't I also accept other religions? ...Surely, he wasn't so egotistical that he had no room for teaching other than his. But as I thought about it... I realized Jesus was concerned with idolatry. It isn't that people worship God too much; it's that their human-derived religious systems distort God. They end up with ideas about him that aren't worthy of him, and have no security upon which to build a relationship with him. People groping after transcendent deity can get only so far without getting it wrong. And then, in the name of religion, they'll do destructive things, things that God never asked, things that don't bring life, things that make God more distant and confusing. So Jesus offered clarity, not arrogant elitism. He offered solid ground to stand on in the dangerous swamp of human religious opinion...

And there was that nagging realization that he had asked for commitment. He wanted me to love him and be loyal to him. None is worthy of our devotion as he is. If I wanted him, he allowed for no unclaimed corner of my heart in which other spiritual loves could reside. The Bible calls the church the bride of Christ. And if I took him to myself, I must take his insistence that I say, “I do”—followed by “I don't” to all other suitors. It's not that he's intolerant; he just wants the marriage to work.”

*What Difference Does Jesus Make?* by Judson Poling  
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