



**BELIEVE IT OR NOT**

**John 7:40-53 [NLT]**

**When the crowds heard him say this, some of them declared, “Surely this man is the Prophet we’ve been expecting.”**

**41**Others said, “He is the Messiah.” Still others said, “But he can’t be! Will the Messiah come from Galilee? **42**For the Scriptures clearly state that the Messiah will be born of the royal line of David,

**in Bethlehem, the village where King David was born.” 43** So the crowd was divided about him. **44** Some even wanted him arrested, but no one laid a hand on him. **45** When the Temple guards returned without having arrested Jesus, the leading priests and Pharisees demanded, “Why didn’t you bring him in?”

**46** *“We have never heard anyone speak like this!”* the guards responded. **47** *“Have you been led astray, too?”* the Pharisees mocked. **48** *“Is there a single one of us rulers or Pharisees who believes in him?”* **49** *This foolish crowd follows him, but they are ignorant of the law. God’s curse is on them!”* **50** Then Nicodemus, the leader who had met with Jesus earlier, spoke up.

**51** “Is it legal to convict a man before he is given a hearing?” he asked. They replied, **52** “Are you from Galilee, too? Search the Scriptures and see for yourself—no prophet ever comes from Galilee!” Then the meeting broke up, and everybody went home. †

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**1. There were two sides to the debate.**

**2. Armed temple guards were sent to arrest Jesus... but returned empty-handed.**



**3. His teaching was full of authority and truth.**

**4. Jesus himself was – and is – God.**

**5. You simply cannot question his teaching with a good conscience.**

**6. When Jesus spoke, his words were full of love and compassion.**

**7. He speaks directly from His Father's heart to ours.**



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