

The crowd is willfully IGNORANT of Jesus

While some people believed Jesus was the Prophet that would come *before* the Messiah like Elijah or Jeremiah, others believed he was the *actual* Messiah (Matt. 16:13-16). Others showed lazy ignorance of Jesus' background believing he wasn't born in Bethlehem or that being from Galilee disqualified him from being Messiah. Rather than investigate the truth, they trusted gossip and hearsay. *Don't be easily influenced or manipulated by others' stories or views.* They only needed to ask his family or investigate the clan registration for Bethlehem. Also, it was prophesied that Galilee would have spiritual light from the Messiah. This showed he'd be there for some time fulfilling the Messianic credentials prophesied in the OT (Luke 2:1-7; Is. 9:1, 2). *Emotional, impulsive decisions are often wrong, and lack of prayer and investigation can be destructive.*

The officers are willingly AMAZED by Jesus

The Romans allowed the Jews to have a level of religious autonomy. So, the Jewish leaders appointed Levites as officers, like police, to keep order at the Temple. As Jesus was drawing massive crowds and people were starting to wonder if he was the Messiah, the jealous leaders sent officers to arrest him. As the Levites knew the Law and had heard many great orators, when they heard Jesus they knew he was different. *Those that want the truth respond to it!* They were so overcome by Jesus' words, delivery, and power they refused to do their job and reported back to their bosses that there was no one like him! Instead of trusting their judgment, the Jewish leaders insulted them calling them 'deceived' and 'ignorant.' *Those not wanting the truth will keep running from it* (John 3:19, 20)!

Nicodemus is wonderfully DEFIANT for Jesus

The religious leaders claimed none of them believed in Jesus, which wasn't true. Nicodemus, a Pharisee, did and doesn't give in to peer pressure but rebukes them for wanting to arrest Jesus without questioning him (Prov. 18:17; John 3:2). In response, they say no prophet has come from Galilee, which also wasn't true, as Jonah and Nahum had (2 Kings 14:25; Nah. 1:1). This exposed their hearts, that no matter the evidence, they refused to submit to God. *Perfect submission to God brings perfect peace from God* (1 Pet. 5:6)!