

**John 7:1-26**  
**(Psalm 34:1-8; Hebrews 12:1-2)**  
**“Looking for Jesus”**

**Introduction**

Everyone is looking for Jesus, but no one seems to recognize him. Even his family and friends are confused. The religious leaders want to destroy him. The crowds want to discuss him. Little has changed in two thousand years. Everyone is still looking for Jesus, whether or not they realize it: the child who longs for safety and security, the young man who longs for pleasure, the young woman who longs for intimacy, the middle age person seeking significance, the old person wishing that life could begin again. We are, all of us, looking and longing for what God would give us through his Son, but we keep looking in all the wrong places, and so our pleasures become destructive, our relationships dysfunctional, and our vision clouded. We miss Jesus and all he offers, although he is standing astride human history with outstretched arms calling, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

Why is it that we all miss him so much of the time, and some of us miss him all the time? And what is the difference that grace works in the hearts of those who find him? These are the questions we will ask of our text this morning.

**Body**

**1. Why is it that so many who are looking for Jesus miss him completely?**

If we are looking to resist him, we will miss him (7:1).

What are some of the ways that we resist him even as we seek him?

If we are looking to mock him, we will miss him (7:3-5).

What are some of the ways that we mock him even as we seek him?

**2. Why do others recognize and respond to his presence?**

If we long to do God’s will rather than our own, we will recognize Jesus (7:17).

What does it mean to long to do God’s will?

If we look from the perspective of grace, we will recognize Jesus (7:21-24).

What does it mean to look at things from a perspective of grace?

**Conclusion**

