

GOSPEL PEARLS

Learn to distinguish

SCHEGGE DI VANGELO

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Jesus stayed in Galilee; he could not stay in Judaea, because the Jews were out to kill him. As the Jewish feast of Tabernacles drew near, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went up as well, but quite privately, without drawing attention to himself. Meanwhile some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, 'Isn't this the man they want to kill? And here he is, speaking freely, and they have nothing to say to him! Can it be true the authorities have made up their minds that he is the Christ? Yet we all know where he comes from, but when the Christ appears no one will know where he comes from.' Then, as Jesus taught in the Temple, he cried out: 'Yes, you know me and you know where I came from. Yet I have not come of myself: no, there is one who sent me and I really come from him, and you do not know him, but I know him because I have come from him and it was he who sent me.' They would have arrested him then, but because his time had not yet come no one laid a hand on him. (John 7, 1-2.10.25-30)

People tend to classify others by their country or family of origin. This temptation to label one's neighbour needs to be overcome by those who wish to become disciples of Jesus. In fact, it often hides the pride of believing we are better than them and stops us from recognising that our neighbour was sent to us by God, in order to help us reach eternal life. By asking the Holy Spirit for help, you learn to distinguish between the people who can help you on your path to holiness from those who are a hindrance.