

5.29.18 ~ John 10:22-42

“Rejected and Accused of Blasphemy, Jesus Departs.”

Read John 10:22-24... John tells us that it is the time of the Feast of Dedication, which takes place on the 25th day of the Jewish month Chislev (Nov.-Dec).

The last time marker we were given was in chapter 7, the time of the Feast of Tabernacles (tents, shelters), as Jesus went up to Jerusalem (John 7:14), arriving in the middle of the Feast (Sept.-Oct.), two months earlier.

The Feast of Dedication is known today as Hanukkah or Feast of Lights, as many lamps and candles are lit in Jewish homes for this celebration.

Briefly: Feast of Dedication remembered Israel’s victory in 164 B.C., over the Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes who sacrificed a pig on the altar of the temple in 170 B.C., and set up a statue of Zeus in the Holy of Holies. Antiochus aggressively persecuted the Jews, forbidding them to observe the Sabbath and circumcise their children.

Under the leadership of Judas Maccabeus (son of a priest named Mattathias) the Jews rose up and finally took back Jerusalem and liberated the temple on the 25th day Chislev, at which time they rededicated the temple to God and established the Feast of Dedication during the winter of 164 B.C.

Jesus (**verse 23**) is walking in Solomon’s Colonnade [portico of Solomon], using the protection of the colonnade, as winter in Jerusalem can be cold and rainy. The Jews *gathered around* [surrounded, encircled] Jesus, demanding Him to tell them “plainly” [publicly, i.e., right here, right now] whether or not He is the Christ. The Jews are trying to trap Jesus into openly saying that He is the Messiah.

Read John 10:25-31... Are you kidding? Jesus has repeatedly told them, over the past three years, who He is (see **John 5:17; 8:12, 24, 58**). The problem is, these Jews do not believe Jesus is God’s Son, so they can’t “hear” [understand] what He is saying because of their spiritually hardened hearts and spiritually blind eyes, to which the only cure is to repent and believe in Christ.

Only those who believe in and belong to Jesus can hear His voice, understand His words, and follow Him. He is the Good Shepherd (**verse 11**) who laid down His life for the sheep. Think about that for a moment - in Israel, sheep were sacrificed daily in the temple as payment to God for the sin’s of the people; and yet, here is Jesus, God’s Son, the Messiah, God in human flesh, giving His life as full payment for our sins so that we can be made righteous, acceptable to a Holy God (**2Corinthians 5:21**) **Hebrews 9:26b**, “He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

John 10:28-29 again... To those who genuinely belong to God in Christ, being born of the Spirit of God (**John 1:12-13**), “...to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God...” “...born of God.”

Those who belong to Christ have eternal life and will never perish [suffer death] (**John 11:25-26**), “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die” [this is speaking of spiritual life].

As Christians we have absolute eternal security, no one, nothing, can touch us apart from God’s allowing it, let alone take us from His loving and sovereign care; Jesus is God the Son, one [equal] with God the Father.

Jesus very plainly, openly and publicly stated equality with God the Father this escalates the Jews into anger hyperdrive and they now pick up stones to stone Him.

Read John 10:32-33... Jesus asks the Jews for which of His miracles, done through Him by the Father, are they stoning Him? The Jews tell Jesus that He hasn't done any good works, by their judgement, but He has clearly blasphemed against God.

Clearly it is Christ's claim to equality with God that sets the Jews vehemently against Him and they are not willing to consider any possibility that He might truly be the Messiah. But their rejection and unbelief doesn't change the truth that He is in fact almighty God who came in the flesh of a man, humbling Himself to the point of death for our sins (see **John 1:1-4, 14, 18**).

Mark 10:45, *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."*

Hebrews 9:26, *"He [Christ] has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself."*

Hebrews 10:10, *"We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."*

Read John 10:34-38... This is, at first reading, a difficult teaching, that God would call the corrupt judges of Israel gods. This comes from **Psalms 82:1-2**, *"A psalm of Asaph. God presides in the great assembly; He gives judgment among the 'gods': 'How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked?'" 6-7*, *"I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.' But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler."*

Look again at verse 35... If God called these wicked judges "gods", the Jews cannot contest Scripture, as it has absolute authority. But since God called these evil judges, mere men of Israel, "gods", how is it these Jews accuse the very One sent from the Father of blasphemy? Jesus, has more than proved He has the right to be called the Son of God; after all the Word of God came to the judges of Israel, but Jesus is the Word of God.

Jesus appeals to the Jews, but they are so spiritually blind they cannot recognize His works as the works of God; but (**verse 38**) even if they don't believe Him, they should believe the miracles themselves and come to the conclusion that the Father is in Him and He is in the Father (**verse 30**), for *"He and the Father are one."*

Read John 10:39-42... The Jews don't get it, they will not believe in Jesus, instead they try to grab Him, i.e., to arrest Him and bring Him before the Sanhedrin, but He escaped their grasp [cf. John 7:30; 8:20, "His time had not yet come"].

Jesus departs Jerusalem and goes near where John had baptized Him [**John 1:28**, Bethany, "beyond the Jordan"]; here many people came to Jesus saying, 'everything John the baptizer said about Him is true'.

Note: Although John performed no miracles, the people considered him to be a prophet from God and a true witness of the Messiah (see **John 1:29-33**).

As it was in the time of Christ, even today most people reject Jesus as God, but all those who come to Him, repenting of sin and believing in Him, will know Him for who He is and will be granted (**John 1:12**), *"the right to become children of God."*

John 7:17, *"If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether My teaching comes from God or whether I speak on My own."*

John 6:28-29, They asked Him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this [i.e., God's will is]: to believe in the one He has sent."

John 8:24, "I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be]."

Next week we will begin chapter 11, the marvelous story of Lazarus' death and resurrection which displays the compassion, power and glory of God.

The Jews will again plan to capture and kill Jesus, but to no avail, because it is not yet the time. so,

And then in chapter 12, Jesus will ride into Jerusalem, right up to the temple on a donkey's colt, basically offering up Himself to those who will finally crucify Him; but even this is according to God's will and by the authority given to the Son (John 10:17-18), Jesus says, "*I lay down my life - only to take it up again.* No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

John 20:31, "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name."

Pastor Mike
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