

Miracles also Testify Against Those Who Don't Believe!

Scripture: John 10:22-42 (vv.25,26,38)

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I. Introduction

This week's lesson resumes about two months later after the Feast of Tabernacles which normally occur in October. It seems to be a continuation of the subject of Jesus being the Good Shepherd and who are His sheep. Jesus also identified himself as the Gate the sheep could enter. It seems likely that Jesus returned to Jerusalem to resume his teaching about his role as the Shepherd of Israel. The whole chapter is built about the theme of Jesus is The Great Shepherd who gives his life for the sheep unlike the **false shepherd**. A miracle is an event that would be impossible by natural law but is brought to pass by the supernatural power of God.

II. The Lesson: Miracles also testify Against Those who Don't Believe

1. **vv. 22-23.** The festival of Dedication was not a festival that God had in the Law for the people to observe. This Feast, which is observed today by the Jews, is also called Hanukkah or Chanukah. It also called the festival of lights. It came about after Judas Maccabees and his followers fought for three years to liberate Israel from the emperor Seleucid who had captured and ruled the Middle East. This Emperor had forced them to abandon the worship of God; had defiled the Temple by sacrificing pigs on the altar and pouring the blood on the Sacred Scrolls. After taking control, the Maccabeus army began to clear the country of all the pagan gods and idolatry. The priests performed the Purification ceremony for the Temple. Everything was in place, except enough oil to keep the Menorah burning. Only one day of oil had been found which had not been contaminated. But by a miracle, it lasted the required eight days for the Purification Ceremony and rededication ceremony. It was winter according to verse 22, and there was a spiritual chill in the air. But Light and the new Temple had entered in the colonnade.
2. **v.24.** The confrontation: The Jews decided to encircle Jesus when they saw that he had entered on the Porch. Their immediate request is for Jesus to speak plainly- is he or is he not the Messiah. As we have been studying the Book of John, we have seen how Jesus over and over referred to the Old Testament prophetic hope concerning himself. We know that they were very well versed in the Old Testament but failed to grasp it meaning. These are people with an agenda. They are slyly trying to trip Jesus up for their own purpose. They were trying to make Jesus responsible for their unbelief by indicating that he was keeping them in suspense.
3. **vv.25-26.** John recorded in this book the many ways which Jesus had answered their questions. The Message of the Gospel had been clearly given; it was their fear of conviction and pride or the establishment that was in the way. Jesus' response is a rebuke to them and strikes at the hardness of their hearts. He answered them, "I told you, and you don't believe; the works that I do in my Father's name, these bear

witness of Me.” Jesus would not outright tell them that He was the Messiah (Christ), but every sign which He had performed should have pointed to the fact that He was the Son of God. He had plainly showed them. In MK.2: 3-12; John 5:36, Jesus said the very works that I am doing testify that His Father has sent me. It is recorded that he told the women at the well that he was the Messiah (Jn.4:25-26). Why didn't he just tell them what they wanted to hear? First, keep in mind that these Jews are not looking for a Christ who is like Jesus. It is the Feast of dedication, and they are looking for a Christ who is like Judas Maccabees. They wanted a political Messiah, who will overthrow the oppression of the Roman Empire and re-establish Israel as the world power. Second, Jesus had already declared that because of their earlier rejections that He would speak to them in parables as a means fulfilling scriptures (Matt.13:14-15/ Lk.8:10). He rebuked them for their unbelief. Not only had He revealed His identity in words using Messianic titles for Himself, but His many miraculous works also bore witness of His identity. Is.35:5-6 described what the Messiah would be able to do. They simply refused to believe Him, and Jesus gave them the reason as to why; “But you do not believe, because you are not my sheep”. Man has a responsibility for his own sin, and no one can accuse God of injustice in letting them perish because of their own unbelief. God is Holy and Sovereign. He resists the proud but gives grace to the humble (Pro.3:34). John 1:10-11 said, “The Word came to his own, and who were his own didn't receive Him.” For Jesus to say to them “I am the Messiah”, would have given them false hopes but he did tell them by other means. It is difficult to convince people when you don't look like what they expected, or they already have their minds made up. Also, when they read the scriptures, they selected the evidence they wanted to believe and left the rest.

4. **vv.27-30**. Jesus then answers their demands with an emphatic statement. “His sheep hear His voice”. Not just the audible sound, they hear with their hearts and in belief (faith) to follow Him or are drawn to Him. Jesus also Knows His sheep and He also stated that He gives them eternal life and they will never perish, nor can any man take them away from Him. In the prayer in John 17, He repeatedly stated that the Father had given Him those who believed. Jesus made it clear in Matt.16:24; Mk.8:34; Lk.9:23: “If anyone will come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me”. This is the mark of a true sheep. He will follow Christ and not the world. (2Tim.2:19). Further the doctrine of the security of the believer is authenticated, when He said, no one can snatch them out of my Fathers' hand. I and the Father are one”. (1Pt.1-3) Salvation in Jesus is eternal (Heb.7:25).
5. **v.31**. The response of these Jews was exactly what it would have been if He had simply stated, “I am the Christ.” This the same thing they had done a couple of months previously. Since they didn't like the answer, they sought to get rid of what they perceived as a problem. They were going to uphold the Law without going through the judicial process involving witnesses and requiring them to throw the first stone. (Deut.17:7). They were violating the Torah themselves.
6. **vv.32-33**. They have stones and they are ready to start throwing them, but Jesus does not leave, and He is not hidden from them this time. Instead, he boldly faced them and questioned them. He asked them, “I showed you many good works from

the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?” He goes back to His earlier statement that the works that He had done among them bore witness to His claim of doing the Father’s work and He the Father were one. What a person does is much more important than what a person says, for it is the action that show the true nature of that person. Jesus’ actions backed up His claims, so He challenged them about which of His good works was causing them to stone Him. They purposely ignored or missed Jesus’ point about the works. They now accused Him of blasphemy. They regarded Jesus simply as a man. They ignored the proof that Jesus had given for His claim. The signs which Jesus performed were meant to give people a reason to believe that He is God’s Son, so we can have life in His name (John 20: 30-31). As we have seen throughout our study of the life of Jesus, they had their minds made up before the arguments and evidence was ever presented. They weren’t looking for truth, they were looking for an opportunity to find a reason to kill Him. They were looking for a reason to stay in their sins.

7. **vv.34-36**. They are accusing Jesus based on the Law, of someone claiming to be God, should be stoned to death. He takes them back to Psalms 82 and showed them that they have reached a false conclusion. Plus, He quotes from there a warning to them who are familiar with Psalm 82:6-7; God rebukes those He has placed in authority in Israel for their unjust judgments and warns them that though they have been given a high position, they are still just men who will face His judgment. Jesus only quoted the first part, but as Teachers of the Law they should have known the rest. The argument Jesus makes is: God Himself calls these unjust judges “gods” because the word of God had come to them. They had received their position as God’s representatives as judges in the Theocracy by divine appointment. He emphasizes that the Scriptures cannot be broken. They had only received the word of God, but Jesus was both sanctified and sent by God into the world. Jesus is from God Himself. He is the Word of God in human flesh (Jn.1:1-4). The real blasphemy was rejecting Jesus’ offer of His saving grace. Jesus said the Scriptures cannot be denied or found to be in error (TPT).
8. **vv.37-38**. This is not only a defense of His claim but also Jesus extending His Grace, even though they were accusing him and were ready to stone Him. Jesus is saying not only am I walking the talk, but my works support My claim of deity, which they should believe. How many founders of religions walked their talk like Jesus? None. They may have said some things to be virtuous but had trouble living up to their own words. Jesus tells them, “Do not believe me, if I am not doing the things my Father wants me to do. But if I do them, even though at least believe me, you should at least believe my deeds, in order that you may know once and for all that the Father is in me and I am in the Father. This fulfilled what was said in Is.53
9. **vv.39-42**. Again, they tried to seize Jesus, but He escape once more because it was not His time. He left Jerusalem to go to the place where John the Baptist had been baptizing. Many people there believed in Jesus. We can re-read V.18: No one takes it (life) from me’ but I lay it own of my own accord.

III. **Conclusion.**

If you are one of Jesus' sheep, you will hear His voice and you will believe and be obedient to Him. Jesus knows His sheep and they are safe in the Shepherds' hand and the Fathers'. Because nothing can separate them from His love. Does Jesus Know you? Are you safe in His hands. If you are relying on yourself, your goodness and your own efforts, you will be more like the Jews who have rejected the truth even when it was in front of them.

Jesus came when the Feast of Dedication was to start. He was the new Temple arriving; he was the Light; The spirit of the Lord was upon Him, because God had anointed Him to preach the gospel to the poor (Lk.4:18). The purifier was among them, but they chose to ignore the proof because of preconceived notion of what the Messiah should look like or be. Despite their rejection and attempts to stone Him, at the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus came back to give them another chance. Our Lord wishes for none to perish then and now. If we are His sheep, we are secured forever.