Jesus and His Deity

John 10:22-42

Introduction:

I. Jesus Answers Their Question – 10:22-30

A. The Occasion – 10:22-23

1. The Celebration – 10:22

“Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.”

In 167 BCE, the Syrian, Antiochus Epiphanies profaned the temple in Jerusalem by sacrificing a sow on the altar. Later, Judas Maccabaeus cleansed the temple. The Feast of Dedication (Chanukah) (Feast of Lights) commemorates that event. It was (and still is) celebrated in December.

2. The Colonnade – 10:23

“And Jesus walked in the temple, ﻿﻿in Solomon’s porch.”

It ran along the eastern side of the temple of Solomon. It was the only part of Solomon’s temple that Nebuchadnezzar did not destroy in 586 BCE. The church met there. Acts 5:12

B. Their Question – 10:24

“Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, “How long do You keep us in ﻿﻿doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.”

“Surrounded” They would not let Him get away. He had taught them symbolically, “I am the Door” “I am the Good Shepherd” and told them that He was sent from God. They wanted Him to say, “I am the Messiah”. He was trying to lead them to that conclusion from the evidence that He gave them.

“A man convinced against he will, is of the same opinion still.”

C. Jesus Explanation – 10:25-30

1. The Witness of His Signs – 10:25-29

a. The Cause of their Unbelief – 10:25-26

“Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. ﻿﻿The works that I do in My Father’s name, they ﻿﻿bear witness of Me. But ﻿﻿you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, ﻿﻿as I said to you.”

He had told them why He was doing the works that were prophesied of Him. But they would not believe. They did not believe because they would not believe. They were not His sheep.

Jesus is not saying that they are not elect. There were some believers who were looking for Messiah: Anna, Zacharias, Elizabeth, John B. etc. They were His sheep and they believed His signs.

b. The Content of their Unbelief – 10:27-29

1). The Evident Sign – 10:27

﻿

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

Some people see a necessity of discipleship in order to be saved. The context is not about becoming saved, but about those who are already saved, recognizing Jesus as Messiah and following Him.

2). The Eternal Security – 10:28-29

Jesus’ Guarantee:

“And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

1. The life He gives is eternal -- How long is eternal? – Never ending.

2. They shall never perish -- Double negative, extra strong, “never ever perish”

In English a double negative is a positive. In Greek the more negatives, the stronger it is.

The most negatives in one statement is 5:

“*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*”

“οὐ μή σε ἀνῶ οὐδʼ οὐ μή σε ἐγκαταλίπω”

How Firm A Foundation- 4th Stanza - The soul that on Jesus shall lean for repose, etc. John Rippon knew his Bible – in Greek.

3. The Father holds them as well

“ ﻿﻿My Father, ﻿﻿who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father’s hand.” (10:29)

As if Jesus is not enough, He adds the Father power as well. There is one hand, Jesus’ hand, and the Father’s hand on top. How about if I jump out?

2. The Witness of His Speech – 10:30

 ﻿

“﻿﻿I and *the* Father [we] are one.” -- ἐγ καὶ ὁ πατὴρ ἐσμεν ἕν (neuter)

The “one” is not masculine as to persons. It is neuter - “one” as to power and purpose.

II. Their Response to His Challenge – 10:31-42

A. Their Expectation – 10:31-39

1. The First Step – 10:31-38

a. What They Attempted – 10:31

﻿

“Then ﻿﻿the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. -- “Again” (John 8:59)

(1). How Jesus answered – 10:32

“Jesus answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?”

(2). How They Responded – 10:33

“The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for ﻿﻿blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, ﻿﻿make Yourself God.”

Now they have caught on. That’s exactly what He is saying. But when He says it “plainly,” they don’t like it.

b. What He Attempted to Show- 10:34-38

1) It is not unusual in the O.T. to call men gods. (Psalm 82: 1, 6)

“Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ﻿﻿*‘I said, “You are* gods*”*’? If He called them gods, ﻿﻿to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture ﻿﻿cannot be broken),”

He points them to their own Scriptures, which cannot have error,

“do you say of Him ﻿﻿whom the Father sanctified and ﻿﻿sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ ﻿﻿because I said, ‘I am ﻿﻿the Son of God’?”

Jesus is not saying that He is no more God than they are. He is answering their Proposition that: no man can be called God.

Their logic is faulty, “You being a man make yourself God” (v. 33) In fact He points out that He was sanctified (set apart) and sent into the world by the Father for this purpose. He has more of a right to be called God than those judges in Psalm 82. And they have a right to be called gods according to “your” Scriptures. Which cannot be broken.

2). What is unusual is my works – 10:37-38

 ﻿

“﻿﻿If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, ﻿﻿believe the works, that you may know and ﻿﻿believe ﻿﻿that the Father *is* in Me, and I in Him.”

I do the works of my Father. John records 2 major miracles in 5:1-9 and 9:1-7. He refers to others in 2:23.He leaves it to the other Gospels to give those details.

Therefore, believe the works and you will know that I am Who I claim to be, the Son of God.

2. Their Next Step – 10:39﻿﻿

“Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand.”

He did as he had done in John 8, He escaped out of their hand.

B. His Exit – 10:40-42

1. The Place – 10:40

“And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place ﻿﻿where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed.”

He has only a few months until He goes back to Jerusalem during the Passover (April) to be crucified.

2. The Purpose – 10:41-42

a. Concerning John – 10:41

“Then many came to Him and said, “John performed no sign, ﻿﻿but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true.”

We are not told what Jesus did during these few months. We may be sure that He taught these believers and made many more (see next verse).

There does not seem to be any need for miracles.

b. Concerning the Jews – 10:42

﻿

“And many believed in Him there.

This is a good example of delayed harvest. John had preached in this area 3 years ago and now there is a great harvest of souls. A witness is never wasted.

Conclusion:

Jesus had been in the city of Jerusalem. Those religious leaders of the nation with all of the knowledge of the Scriptures, refused to believe in Him. He goes to the wilderness were John the Baptist and preached and He found a ready audience.

Remember:

The Gospel is the power of God and it never gets cold or old. It will not mold. It can’t be sold for gold. It must be told. So, be bold. Hold out the Gospel to the lost and dying world. Bring them into the fold.