

The Gospel of John Pt. 17

John 10:22-42

Big Idea

Jesus reveals several insights about His relationship to His sheep and His divine relationship to His Father.

Exposition – John 10:22-42

Approximately two months has passed since The Feast of Tabernacles. It is now early winter and The Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) is being celebrated. It was not mandatory that all Jewish men come to the temple in Jerusalem for this feast, but it was widely attended. The feast celebrated the defeat of Syrians who had occupied and desecrated the temple by setting up pagan altars there. This is known as the Maccabean revolt and was commemorated by burning candles in Jewish homes, thus becoming known as the Feast of Lights.



1. The Setup (V22-30)

- A. Because it is winter Jesus walks in the shelter of the covered portico. Incidentally, this would be the meeting place of the earliest Christians as they shared the gospel with those that came to the temple.
- B. It is highly doubtful that the Jews are sincerely seeking to understand Jesus, but rather are luring Him to make an all-out public proclamation to be the Messiah.
- C. Jesus again makes the point that He has supplied them with the information and works that they needed to make a decision as to His real identity. He says they didn't believe because they were not His sheep. He continues in the sheep/shepherd language.
- D. There are a number of theological truths presented here:
 1. The Believer's union with Christ (V27) – The redeemed enter into a covenantal union with Jesus. Consider the biblical analogies for this union:
 - Building and its foundation – Eph 2:20-22; Col 2:7; 1 Pet 2:4f
 - Husband and wife – Rom 7:4; Eph 5:31f; Rev 19:7-9
 - Vine and branches – John 15:1-6
 - Head and body – 1 Cor 6:15, 19; 12:12; Eph 1:22f; 4:15f
 - Shepherd and sheep – John 10:1-18; Heb 13:20; 1 Pet 2:25
 2. The Doctrine of Regeneration (V28) – 1 John 3:9; 1 John 5:1; 1 Pet 2:2; Matt 7:11; Rom 8:17
 3. The Doctrine of Perseverance (V28-29) – Rom 11:29; John 10:27-30; Heb 7:25; Phil 1:6; 2 Tim 1:12; Eph 1:14; 4:30
 4. The Doctrine of the Holy Trinity (V30) – Gen 1:16; 3:22; 11:7; Matt 3:16f; John 14:16; 1 Cor 12:4-6; Eph 1:3-14; 1 Pet 1:2; 3:18

2. The Stones (V31-38)

- A. Jesus clearly states that He has perfect unity with the Father. As usual, the Jews hate it and respond, for the third time, by attempting to stone Him. The Jews would need authorization from the Romans to stone Jesus in the formal sense, but mob mentality rules here.

- B. (V32-33) – Jesus asks which of His good works deserved stoning and the Jews respond by saying that they were not stoning Him for a good work, but for blasphemy. However, they have sought to stone Him over good works only in the past.
- C. (V35-36) – Jesus uses Ps 82:6 to refer to the fact that God, Himself, refers to unjust judges as “gods” & therefore the Jews should have no problem with Jesus referring to Himself as the Son of God.
- D. (V37-38) – Jesus adds that the proof is in the works that He does. His position is that if His works are inconsistent with the works of the Father then they shouldn’t believe Him. But, if they are consistent, then at minimum they should believe the works themselves even if they won’t believe in Him.
 - 1. This is a great example of God striving with man. Jesus could have cut them off for nothing more than their unbelief in Him, but He goes further and further. He offers olive branches to continue the dialogue with the unbelieving Jews. God is longsuffering!
 - 2. The problem is that the Jews were so blind to God Himself that they couldn’t discern the real works of God.

3. His Exit (V39-42)

- A. Once again, Jesus eludes His attackers and leaves the area of Jerusalem. His hour had not yet arrived. He goes to the east side of the Jordan River where the ministry of John the Baptist had been so prevalent.
- B. Many people believed on Jesus while He was east of the Jordan. Their testimony about Jesus seems to indicate that their faith in Him was primed by the testimony of John the Baptist, that John’s testimony about Jesus was true.
 - 1. It is noteworthy that these people did not believe on Jesus in a saving way while John still ministered. Time was a factor in their journey of faith. They received John’s testimony and then over the course of time their faith in Jesus grew and was, no doubt, bolstered by Jesus’ sustained ministry and reputation.

Jewish Feasts

Feast	Month	References
Passover	March-April	Ex 12:1-14; Matt 26:17-20
Unleavened Bread	March-April	Ex 12:15-20
Firstfruits	March-April	Lev 23:9-14; Num 28:26
Pentecost (Weeks)	May-June	Deut 16:9; Acts 2:1
Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)	May-June	Num 29:1-6
Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	Sept-Oct	Lev 23:26-32; Heb 9:7
Tabernacles (Booths)	Sept-Oct	Neh 8:13; John 7:2
Dedication (Hanukkah)	Nov-Dec	John 10:22
Purim (Lots)	Feb-March	Esther 9:18-32