

Our 40 Day Journey to the Cross
Day 3 Friday, February 24

“The Shepherd Knows His Sheep”

Please Read John 10:22-30

John 10:22-30

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

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

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.”

25 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.

26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

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

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

29 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.

30 I and My Father are one.”

Surrounded

vs 24 “Then the Jews surrounded Him”

It isn't said that Jesus was at the temple teaching, it clearly states that He walked in the temple (John 10:23). The sense is that this was a hostile ambush as Jesus simply walked. The religious leaders (once again described as the Jews) refused to listen to or believe in Jesus. They hoped to blame Jesus for their unbelief (***vs 24 How long do You keep us in doubt?***).

Many times those who profess to know God or say that they follow Christ are the ones who “surround” those who have truly given their heart to Christ.

Q: Have you ever been surrounded because of your faith in Christ?

v25 “I told you, and you do not believe”

The Jews asked this question with traitorous and false motives. They wished to get him to declare himself king of the Jews, that they might accuse him to the Roman governor; and by it they insolently insinuated that all the proofs he had hitherto given them of his Divine mission were good for nothing.” (Clarke)

Jesus did not often specifically refer to Himself among the Jews as the Christ, the Messiah.

The reason is because messiah was a word with political and even military implications that Jesus wished to avoid because of His mission to die on the cross.

Proof of what Jesus had told them:

- I told you, I am the one who came from heaven
(John 3:13, 6:38).
- I told you, whoever believes on Me has eternal life
(John 3:15).
- I told you, I am the unique Son of God
(John 5:19-23).
- I told you, I will judge all humanity
(John 5:19-23).
- I told you, all should honor Me just as the honor God the Father
(John 5:19-23).
- I told you, the Hebrew Scriptures all speak of Me
(John 5:39).
- I told you, I perfectly reveal God the Father
(John 7:28-29).
- I told you, I always please God and never sin
(John 8:29, 8:46).
- I told you, I am uniquely sent from God
(John 8:42).
- I told you, before Abraham was, I Am
(John 8:58).
- I told you, I am the Son of Man, prophesied by Daniel
(John 9:37).
- I told you, I will raise Myself from the dead
(John 10:17-18).
- I told you, I am the Bread of Life
(John 6:48).

- I told you, I am the Light of the World
(John 8:12).
- I told you, I am the Door
(John 10:9).
- I told you, I am the Good Shepherd
(John 10:11).

The problem wasn't that Jesus was unclear about who He was and where He came from. The problem was that the religious leaders, false teachers, illegitimate shepherds, thieves and robbers had hearts of unbelief and they wanted to blame their lack of faith on Jesus.

The Shepherd Truly Knows His Sheep

Jesus previously told them they were not true shepherds (John 10:5, 10:8, 10:10, 10:12-13). Here Jesus told them they were not even true sheep, because the Messiah's sheep believe and hear His voice.

They are not only untrustworthy shepherds of God's people, but they are showing that they ought no longer to be classed among the sheep that pay attention to His voice.

Their unbelief is just an evidence that they were not chosen, that these religious leaders have not been called by the Spirit of God, and that they are still in their sins.”

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

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

29 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.

It is to be expected that the Good Shepherd would take good care of His sheep. The sheep are safe and secure in hand of the Good Shepherd. No one is able to snatch them out of our Father's hand:

Despite the problem of religious leaders who false teachers, illegitimate shepherds, thieves and robbers God's sheep find safety in the both the hand of the Good Shepherd and God the Father. We are safe in the hands of God.

Discussion:

- 1)** What was your historical view of religious leaders prior to understanding God's word?
- 2)** What is your view now after studying John 10?