

The Secure Sheep and Blind Unbelief (John 10:22-42)

I. Jesus' Words are Questioned Again (22-25a)

A. Jesus in the Temple (22-23)

1. During Feast of Dedication
2. During winter

B. Jesus is asked to speak Plainly (24)

1. They ask "How long will you keep us in suspense?" (make us doubt)
 - a. They hadn't understood his parable
 - i. Jesus had demonstrated their blindness with the parable of the sheepfold
 - ii. They also wanted clear testimony of Jesus' claims so they could bring accusation against him
 - b. They wanted him to clarify his identity
2. They ask him to tell them "plainly" if He is the Messiah

C. Jesus Exposes Their Open Rejection (25a)

1. Jesus has already told them he was the Messiah
 - a. That's what the sheep parable was about
 - b. They could not understand his parable
2. Jesus Explains why they didn't understand his parable
 - a. They do not believe
 - b. They don't need another explanation
 - c. They need faith

II. Jesus Explains Their Unbelief (25b-30)

A. Jesus' Sheep trust Him and His Works (25b-26)

1. Jesus' Works testify of him (25b)
 - a. His works are done in the Father's name
 - b. His works bear witness about him
2. Jesus' Sheep Alone Believe (26)
 - a. Those questioning him do not believe
 - b. Those questioning him do not believe BECAUSE they are not his sheep
 - c. Jesus is explicitly excluding the Religious leaders from the kingdom

B. Jesus' Sheep Are Secure in Him (27-30)

1. Jesus Describes His Sheep (27-28a)

- a. Jesus' Sheep hear his voice
- b. Jesus knows his sheep
- c. Jesus' sheep follow him
- d. Jesus' sheep have eternal life
 - i. Notice it is Jesus who gives them eternal life
 - ii. Jesus alone has the authority to give eternal life
- e. Jesus' sheep will never perish
 - i. Jesus uses a double negative in Greek

- ii. Jesus' meaning is that there is no way possible they could perish
- 2. Jesus and the Father Are United In their Salvation (28b-30)
 - a. No one can remove Jesus' sheep
 - i. Because the Father is greater than all
 - ii. Because the Father has given them to Jesus
 - iii. This is why no one can remove them
 - b. No one can remove the sheep from the Father
 - c. Jesus and the Father are united in the Salvation of the sheep

III. Jesus' Clear Statements are Rejected (31-42)

- A. The Jews Reject Jesus Again (31-36)
 - 1. The Jews picked up stones to kill him (31)
 - 2. The Jews accuse Jesus of Blasphemy (32-33)
 - a. Jesus asks which miracle they stone him for
 - b. Jesus tells them these works are from the Father
 - 3. The Jews claim Jesus is making Himself God
 - a. No man can give eternal life
 - b. No man can be united with the Father in such away
- B. The Jews Don't have Authority to Accuse Jesus (34-36)
 - 1. Jesus calls the Jew unrighteous Judges
 - a. Jesus References Psalm 82:6 – "you are gods"
 - i. The use of the word elohim (gods) describes the responsibility of the judges God has place authority in.
 - ii. Psalm 82 is a judgment against unjust judges
 - b. This is a very difficult passage
 - i. Many use this to show that Jesus didn't claim to be God – because he said that many people were referred to as "gods"
 - ii. Jesus had already proved his deity by the works he had done. He used this Psalm to show that the Pharisees had no biblical basis for charging him with blasphemy.
 - iii. This argument is hard for modern readers to follow. The word "elohim" (god) is not always used specifically for God the Father.
 - It's used in Psalm 82 to describe judges who were supposed to rule in God's authority
 - It's used of Moses when the Father said, "I have made thee a god (elohim) to Pharaoh" (Exodus 7:1)
 - It's used of judges in general in Exodus 21:6; 22:8-9, 28)

- iv. Jesus point is that if it was not blasphemy to give the title “elohim” to those, good or bad, who represented God because of their office, it surely could not be blasphemy for the one “whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world” to be called the Son of God.
 - v. Jesus is making another point by quoting Psalm 82:6 – They knew the Psalm well and realized Jesus was condemning them as unjust judges. The whole context of the verse Jesus quotes says, *“I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High. But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes. Arise, O God, judge the earth”*
- c. The point is that these men did not have the authority or the biblical understanding to accuse Jesus
 - i. Unjust Judges cannot judge the Holy one of God
 - ii. They have no right to pronounce judgment on the true judge himself.
- C. The Jews Must Believe Before they Can Understand (37-38)
 - 1. Jesus tells them to look at his miraculous works (37)
 - a. If they can explain his miracles outside of the Father’s work then they should not believe
 - b. He knows there is no other explanation just like the blind man said in Chapter 9 – He must be from God because he healed me
 - c. Remember the Blind man had faith before he had all the answers
 - 2. Jesus tells them to believe in his works (38)
 - a. If they cannot believe what Jesus says, they should at least believe in the works
 - b. His works were irrefutable and they give weight to his words
 - c. If his works are real then his words are also real
 - d. Notice that Jesus says they must believe his works in order for them to understand Jesus and his relationship to the Father
 - 3. Jesus has been rejected for the last time by these Jews
- IV. Jesus’ Sheep Believe His works and His Testimony (23-42)
 - A. Jesus Escapes their Attempt to Arrest Him (39)
 - B. Jesus Returns to Where John had been Baptizing (40)
 - C. Jesus is Believed Because of John’s Testimony (41-42)
 - 1. They knew John did no miracles but testified to the one who would come doing miracles
 - 2. They witnessed and believed in the miracles Jesus did
 - 3. They believe John’s testimony about Jesus

This passage teaches many truths in a small amount of space. Those who reject Jesus do so, not because they lack evidence or the testimony about him is unclear. They reject Jesus because they refuse to trust him. They refuse to give up their sin. They want to keep their position of authority in life. Even when Jesus explains to them why they will not believe, they reject him, attempt to kill him, and try to arrest him. Unbelievers do not need more evidence, they simply need the Holy Spirit working in their heart through the gospel. The Jews here would not believe even though they had seen miracle after miracle. Yet at the end of the chapter, those who were at the Jordan believed even though the testimony they received from John was not accompanied by any miracle.

Also, this passage gives great comfort to those who have received Christ. They are his sheep and there is nothing that can remove them from his sheepfold. They cannot even remove themselves from Christ's care. No man (including the man himself) can be taken from Jesus' hand because Jesus and the Father are united in the salvation of the sheep. They are one. But in the same way, we should also remember the description Jesus gives of his sheep. They are not free to sin and live any way they choose, Jesus' sheep hear his voice and they follow him. They will not follow a stranger. If this describes you then you are safe, secure, and have abundance in the sheepfold of Christ.