

Lesson 14: Discourse on the Good Shepherd

March 24, 2021

John 10:1-21

THE JEWS SEEK TO STONE JESUS AT THE FEAST OF DEDICATION. John 10:19-42

10:22-26 – The “*feast of the dedication.*”

Intertestamental period:

- “The **Feast of Dedication** is called *Chanukah* (from *chanak*, ‘to dedicate’) by the Jews, and was first instituted to commemorate the cleansing of the Temple in 167 B.C. by Judas Maccabaeus (1 Macc. 4:52-59; 2 Macc. 10:5; and Josephus *Antiquities* 12.5.4).
- “The Syrian ruler Antiochus Epiphanes had profaned it three years earlier (to the day).
- “Jews celebrated both in Jerusalem and elsewhere very much like they did the Feast of Tabernacles (2 Macc. 10:6); it was even called ‘the Feast of Tabernacles in the month of Kislev’ (2 Macc. 1:9).”

(Daniel H. King, Sr., *John*, Truth Commentaries, Page 266)

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Intertestamental period:

- “The prominence of lights in the festival gave it the name ‘the Feast of Lights’ (John 9:5; and Josephus *Antiquities* 12.325). The feast fell on the 25th of Kislev (November-December), and so was during the winter season. It lasted eight days.”

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- The “**feast of dedication**” occurred a little over two months from the “feast of Tabernacles.”
- That would make this text about three and a half months before Jesus’ death.

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10:22-26 – The “*feast of the dedication.*”

“If thou art the Christ, tell us plainly.”

- Perhaps this sounds sincere, but the Jewish leaders are chiding Jesus, attempting to provoke him into a statement they can use to stir up the people during this highly patriotic time.

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NOTE AND COMPARE ... 8:25-28 – “*They said therefore unto him, Who art thou? Jesus said unto them, Even that which I have also spoken unto you from the beginning.*”

Jesus had repeatedly told them He was the Christ, the Son of God!

- The Samaritan woman said to Jesus, “*I know that Messiah cometh (he that is called Christ): when he is come, he will declare unto us all things.*” Then Jesus said to her, “*I that speak unto thee am (he)*” (John 4:25-26).
- After healing a man who had been lame for thirty-eight years, Jesus claimed, “*My Father worketh even until now, and I work*” (John 5:17). The Jews understood His claim and “*sought the more to kill him*” (John 5:18).

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- Jesus claimed that He was not of this world and then said, “*for except ye believe that I am (he), ye shall die in your sins*” (John 8:23-24).
- In that same discourse, “*Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was born, I am.*” Once again, “*They took up stones therefore to cast at him ...*” (John 8:58-59).

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- John 10:24-25, “The Jews therefore came round about him, and said unto him, **How long dost thou hold us in suspense? If thou art the Christ, tell us plainly.** Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believe not: the works that I do in my Father’s name, these bear witness of me.”
- John 10:25-26, “Jesus answered them, **I told you, and ye believe not:** the works that I do in my Father’s name, these bear witness of me. But ye believe not, **because ye are not of my sheep.**
- John 10:30-31, Jesus claimed, “I and the Father are one” and, “The Jews took up stones **again** (cf. 8:59) to stone him”
- In John 10:36, Jesus said, “I am the son of God.”

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The Jewish leaders were not sincere. No amount of evidence is going to convince them that Jesus is the Christ.

- Their own stubborn wills kept them from believing. (John 7:17; John 5:39-40; 12:42-43)
- Jesus had told them who He was many times, but they continually rejected Him as the Christ. They rejected not only His words, but also His works which bore witness of Him. (cf. Matthew 13:13-15)
- They were free moral agents.
 - *They had the ability to choose.* (cf. Revelation 22:17; 1 Timothy 2:4,6; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 2:11; 6:16-18, etc.)

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Discuss the Calvinistic doctrine of predestination. Does God force truth upon any man?

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

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10:27-29 – “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me ...”

- Since sheep will follow only the voice of their shepherd (verse 4); sheep of the Lord will demand only the Lord's voice and no other.
- We must demand a “thus saith the Lord.”
 - “No one shall pluck them out of my hand.” There is security in following the “good shepherd’s voice.”
- The promise of security for the believer is conditioned upon hearing and following the lord.

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John 10:26-29 – “But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep.”

“My sheep **hear my voice**, and I know **them**, and **they** follow me:

and I give unto **them** eternal life; and **they** shall **never perish**, and no one shall snatch **them** out of my hand.

My Father, who hath given **(them)** unto me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch **(them)** out of the Father’s hand.”

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John 10:26-29 – “But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep.”

The doctrine of “once saved always saved” is not taught in Scripture.

- A believer will “never perish” nor can any “pluck them out” of the Lord’s hand, **if** they continue believing and following the voice of the Lord. (cf. Romans 8:31-39)
- However, one may choose to turn from righteousness. (Ezekiel 18:24; 2 Peter 2:20-22; Colossians 1:21-23; Hebrews 3:12-14; 4:1,11)
- Saving faith is an obedient faith. (James 2:14-26; cf. John 5:24) **A BELIEVER CAN CEASE BELIEVING!**