

Lesson 15: The Good Samaritan and the Feast of Dedication

The Feast Of Dedication (John 10:22-42)
July 14, 2021

The Feast Of Dedication (John 10:22-42)

10:22-26 – The feast of the dedication. The Feast of Dedication, today Hanukkah, once also called “Feast of the Maccabees,” “Festival of Lights.”

- In John 7 we read of the feast of Tabernacles.
 - We noted that the feast of Tabernacles was six months before the death of Jesus. Jesus' death occurred at the end of the Passover.
 - The feast of dedication occurred a little over two months from the feast of Tabernacles (Booths).
 - That would make this text about three and a half months before Jesus' death.
 - The feast of dedication was a commemoration of the purification and rededication of the temple after the Syrians, under Antiochus Epiphanes, had desecrated in 168 BC. He had offered swine upon the altar. This feast (originated in 165 BC by Judas Maccabaeus) was a very patriotic week for the Jews.

The Feast Of Dedication (John 10:22-42)

John 10:24, “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.

“I told you ...” (cf. John 9:26-27)

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

The Feast Of Dedication (John 10:22-42)

John 10:25, “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.”

- Their own stubborn wills kept them from believing. (John 7:17; John 5:39-40)
- 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; etc.) *Discuss the Calvinistic doctrine of predestination. God does not force truth upon any man.*

The Feast Of Dedication (John 10:22-42)

John 10:26-27, “But ye believe not, because **ye are not of my sheep**. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (cf. John 10:1-6)

- As they rejected the voice of the good shepherd, they evidenced that they were not His sheep.
- Some have their mind made up and will not accept any other evidence.

The Feast Of Dedication (John 10:22-42)

John 10:27-29 – 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.

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

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."

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

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!**

Man's freedom of choice is taught throughout the scriptures.

John 7:17, "If any man willeth to do his will he shall know of the teaching whether it is of God or whether I speak form myself."

Revelation 22:17, "And the Spirit and the bride say come. And he that heareth, let him say, come. and he that is athirst, let him come: he that will, let him take the water of life freely."

Matthew 11:28, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls, For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Psalms 119:30, "I have chosen the way of faithfulness, Thine ordinances have I set before me"

Erroneous Conclusion:

- "By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are **predestinated** unto everlasting life, and others foreordained to everlasting death" (Presbyterian Book Of Confessions, chapter 3:6.016)
- "These angels and men, thus **predestinated** and **foreordained** are particularly and **UNCHANGABLY** designed; and their number is so certain and definite **that it cannot be either increased or diminished.**" (Presbyterian Book Of Confessions, chapter 3:6.017)

If That Be True, It Would Be Impossible For Man To Err.

- How could God give blessings if He had unchangeably decreed death? Jonah 3:4, 10; 2 Kings 20:1, 5-6
- How could God bless or curse a nation if it is unchangeably decreed? Jeremiah 18:7-10; Deuteronomy 28; Joshua 24; 23:16ff
- How could God destroy the world if man's destiny was unchangeably decreed? Why did God "grieve" over their wickedness? Genesis 6:6