

## The Application

### John 10:22-42

Last week, Pastor Reggie shared a great study of **John 10:1-21**. Jesus was & is “the Good Shepherd”, and “the Door to the sheepfold”.

Warren Wiersbe outlines this last section of **John 10**, as “*the application*” of the previous verses. Jesus had spoken of both good & bad “shepherds”, and He had taught about “sheep”... & “other sheep”. In **vs. 19-21**, we see “division among the Jews” over Jesus, His teaching & miraculous works. **Verse 20** tells us some said, “**He has a demon**”. **Verse 21** reports, “**Others said, ‘... Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?’**”

#### I. The Controversy Continues,

A. The Setting, **v.22, 23**, “**At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon.**”

1. It was the time of the “Feast of Dedication” (also known as the Feast of Lights, or Hanukkah), an 8-day celebration commemorating the re-dedication of the Jewish temple in December of 164 BC. It had been desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes IV, 167 BC.

2. Probably because of the cold weather, Jesus was not teaching outside in open areas, but in an area known as “the colonnade of Solomon”.

a. A “colonnade” was a row of columns with a roof, and provided some protection from the cold.

b. **One commentator** states, “The cold weather of winter led Jesus to seek shelter in the portico of Solomon where the Jews, ‘with **equally cold hearts**’ gathered around him.”

B. There’s No Middle Ground.

1. The Jews said, **v.24**, “**How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered, “I told you, and you do not believe”.**

2. He had **already** told them, **Jn. 8:58**, “**before Abraham was, I am.**”... They wanted Him to say plainly, “I am the Messiah” and He would not give them that satisfaction.

3. Earlier Jesus said to His disciples, “**Who do you say that I am?**” And Peter said, “**Thou art the Messiah, the Son of the living God.**” ....He acknowledged that He was the Messiah before the disciples.

4. The Samaritan woman at the well said, "I know that when the Messiah comes, He's going to teach us all things." He said, "Woman, I who am speaking to you am He."

5. But yet, the Jews were wanting Jesus to "plainly" declare to them that He Himself was "the Christ". (To help them be able to accuse Jesus.)

6. Jesus' simple answer:..... v. 25, "I told you, and you do not believe."

7. **I have a friend** with whom I worked for 36 years. He's legally blind from macular degeneration. We walk around the block together. He loves it when we find golf balls along Univ. Pkwy. He takes them to a church friend and tells him to knock them back over to us when he plays the next time at Pine Oaks. My friend, John has all kinds of gadgets from the VA which help him in his blindness.... When at work, he hardly turned his computer on... now he's "Mr. Gadget Man".

BUT there were no gadgets to help these Jewish traditionalists "see" and believe that Jesus was & continues to be the Messiah,... the Son of God,... the Savior of the world.

8. Jesus said, Lk. 11:23, "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters." They were plainly against Him.

### C. The Witnesses.

1. Jesus continues, v. 25, "... The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep...". This statement is a repeat of 5:36, "...The works that the Father has given me to accomplish; the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me."

2. Jesus had told these same Jewish leaders in Jn. 5, that not only His "works", but also "John the Baptist,...the Father,... and the Scriptures", had testified of Him, "yet (they) refused to come to him that they may have life."

3. **What a sad picture**... those who had studied and knew the scriptures were so blinded by the works of darkness that they could not perceive the Messiah standing right in front of them.

4. We all have friends and family who are in that condition. Prayer and the work of God are the only resources we have to draw them to Jesus. Jn. 6:44, "Jesus said...No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day."

## II. The Good Shepherd and His Sheep, vs. 27-30.

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A. They (WE) **Hear His Voice**, v. 27a, *My sheep hear my voice...*

1. To "hear a voice", someone has to "speak".
2. If you were to tell an unbeliever, or a newly-born again believer "God spoke to me", they would think you were "crazy", **or at the least "eccentric"**.
4. **Henry Blackaby** in his study on "Experiencing God", says that God, from the beginning has spoken to His people, from the Garden of Eden until now. "Today, He speaks by the Holy Spirit (He is a real "person")... through the Bible... prayer (a 2-way conversation)... circumstances (they are not "coincidence")... & the church."  
When God spoke to His people in the Bible, "it was usually unique to the individual... the person knew it was God (Paul on the road, & Moses)... knew what God said... hearing God speak was an encounter with God."
5. The unbeliever has no hunger for the Word of God... no interest in prayer to God... no Holy Spirit to lead him/her.

B. They (WE) **Know Christ & Are Known (by Him)**, vs.14, & 27b, *"I know my own and my own know me..., v. 27b, "I know them..."*.

1. To think that Jesus "knows us", could be a frightful thing. He knows you better than you know yourself... the secrets of your past,... the thoughts of your mind,... even now, as you wonder, "Does He know about... 'that'?" **Yep**, He does!
2. **Ps. 139:1-6**, *"O LORD, you have searched me and known me ! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it."* I'm reminded in the "prayer of Jabez", 1 Chron. 4, *"that your hand would be upon me..."*. (=blessing, presence)
3. The wonderful thing is... He knows us, as His children (His sheep). And He loves us through Jesus!

C. They (WE) **Follow Him**, v. 27c, *"... and they follow me..."*

1. What does it mean to "follow Jesus"?
2. Jesus said to those who wanted to follow him, **Lk. 9:23**, *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me."*

3. Jn. 14:15, "If you love me, keep my commandments."
4. At one point in Jesus ministry, many of those following Him left. Jesus turned to His disciples and asked, "Will you also leave me?" Jn.6:68, "Simon Peter answered him, '**Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life**, and we have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God'"
5. As His sheep, we must follow Jesus, which means we "deny ourselves" and put Him first.... It means we "obey Him & His Word" .... And it means we accept Him as "the way, the truth, & the life". He indeed has "the words of eternal life."
6. And we can **not** in our own strength follow Him:  
**J.I. Packer**, "The Christian's life in all its aspects... is supernatural; only the Spirit can initiate and sustain it. So apart from Him (the Spirit) there (will) be no... believers and no congregations at all."

D. They (WE) **Have Eternal Life**, v. 28, "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish..."

1. "*Eternal life*" begins when you are "*born again*" .... Before that point you were "*dead in your trespasses & sins*"....
2. "*Eternal life*" also speaks of "**quality**" of life.
3. We hear talk today about "quality of life", and it usually speaks to our ability to enjoy life... to interact with our environment.
4. But the sad thing is, the world outside of Christ knows nothing about real quality.  
 True life is in Jesus Christ.  
 Many think Christians "give up" so much.  
 But friends, we "gain so much" in Christ ... forgiveness—peace—eternal life—a new family—knowing our Creator....

E. They (WE) **Are Secure**, v. 28b-29, "...they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."

1. Notice we are not only in **Jesus'** "hand", but also "the Father's hand".
2. That sounds pretty secure to me.

III. Religious Opposition... Again, John 10:31-33, "Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I showed you from my Father; for which of those works do you stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that you, being a man, make yourself God."

A. They Just Could't Get It

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(or maybe it should be said, "They just refused to get it")

1. Jesus had just said, v. 30, "I and the Father are one."
2. They had been asking, v.24, "Tell us plainly. Are you the Messiah?"
3. They didn't want to believe... they wanted a reason to kill Jesus.
4. So they "took up stones..."

B. Jesus' Response, v. 34-36, "Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, 'I said, You are gods'? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; do you say of him, whom the Father has sanctified, and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming; because I said, I am the Son of God?'"

1. Jesus is not giving in to their refusal to believe.
2. He confronts them with something in "their law".
3. It's an interesting point.... Jesus quotes Ps. 82:2-6, where God Himself called certain men "gods", presumably because they were judges, representing God. **Jesus here is saying** if God called these men gods, & could not Himself as God be guilty of blasphemy, why are you saying I am blaspheming when I say "I am the Son of God"?

C. Yet another challenge to "believe", v. 37-39, "If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

1. There was no question in anyone's mind that Jesus was indeed "doing the works" of someone greater than He.
2. Over & over we read in the gospels we read, "Never a man spoke like this" (Jn.7:46); Lk. 2:12, "And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out...they were all amazed and glorified God, saying "We never saw anything like this!"; Jn. 9:25, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see".
3. YES, Jesus was "doing the works of His Father".
4. **BUT**, "if you won't believe this...believe the works..."
5. The religious leaders would do neither!

D. Yet another refusal to "believe", v. 39, "Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands."

1. **When we lived &** pastored in Erwin, I went with our son on an elementary school trip to a camp in Greenville. One event took us into a cave. When we all turned our flashlights off, you could not see your hand in front of your face.

2. Such was the spiritual blindness of these religious leaders.

E. Many do believe, vs., 40-42, “He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. And many came to him. And they said, “John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.” And many believed in him there.”

1. At this point, (after total rejection of the Jewish leaders, & numerous attempts to arrest him) Jesus left Jerusalem and went “across the Jordan...where John had been baptizing...”

2. Jn. 1:28, tells us that was “in Bethany across the Jordan”.

3. This was a different “Bethany” than the one near Jerusalem where Lazarus, Martha, & Mary lived,... on the East side of Jordan R.

4. This is the place early in Jesus ministry where John’s disciples reported that “all are going to him”, 3:26.

5. And once again our text for today tells us, v.42, “And many believed in Him there.”