

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

**28) The Good Shepherd's Sheep
Will Never Perish**

'Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. 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." 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. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you"'

(Jn.10:22-26)

The Feast of Dedication, Hannukah, was in commemoration of the liberation and purification of the temple by Judas Maccabeus in 167BC

- ✓ **Antiochus tried to Hellenize the Jews**
- ✓ **Any Jew possessing a copy of the law was killed**
- ✓ **Circumcising a child was punishable by death**
- ✓ **The temple was turned into a house of prostitution**
- ✓ **He stole millions in gold and silver from the temple treasury**
- ✓ **The great altar of burnt offering was turned into an altar to the Greek god Zeus and pigs were sacrificed on it**
- ✓ **80,000 Jews were killed and an equal number were sold as slaves**

- ✓ **Jesus was surrounded by the Jews, preventing His escape demanding He reveal His identity**
- ✓ **If he was the Messiah then they would look to Him to liberate them. If not, they would not waste their time with Him. To them the word 'Messiah' had political and military connotations**
- ✓ **Jesus replied, 'I told you; many times. I even confirmed it by My works, which were signs, miracles with a message'**
- ✓ **But He never presented Himself as a political leader. He did not want to be their political leader, but their Shepherd. But they did not follow Him because they were not His sheep**

'My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone 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 My Father's hand. I and My Father are one''

(John 10:27-30)

- ✓ **There is a real and personal relationship between Jesus and His people. They hear His voice and He knows them. They follow Him**
- ✓ **These are promised they are eternally secure**
- ✓ **1) No one can snatch them out of the Shepherd's hand. And they will never perish**
- ✓ **2) None can snatch them from the Father's hand. *'...your life is hidden with Christ in God'* (Col.3:3)**
- ✓ **Jesus often assures us of this: E.g. *'I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world'* (John 6:51). *'And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die'* (John 11:26)**

- ✓ **'I and My Father are one' – 'I and My Father' = 2 Persons. 'Are one' = one essence, deity**
- ✓ **Also, they are one in purpose, i.e. the salvation and security of the sheep. Both Father and Son guarantee the security of the believer. *'I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost...'* (John 17:9-12)**

'Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God." Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods"'? If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"'

(John 10:31-36)

- ✓ **Jesus asked why they wanted to kill Him when He only did good deeds. They replied not for His deeds but for blasphemy - a charge Jesus did not refute. He WAS claiming to be God. He was not 'making' Himself God but by His words and works showed Himself to be God**
- ✓ **Jesus pointed out that the term 'gods' was used in the Psalms (82) for mortal men, and they never had a problem with that. In contrast, Jesus is the Son of God by nature and union with the Father. He does the works which only God can do and which testify of Him, so how much more does the term 'God' apply to the Son of God, the Word who was with God and is God, the One whom God had set apart**

- ✓ **Why did they hate Jesus so much? Because of His holiness; and their sinfulness. *'The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil'* (John 7:7)**
- ✓ **The carnal mind is enmity against God, and this was seen when God incarnate came to earth**
- ✓ **As a child an attempt was made to murder Him**
- ✓ **After His first sermon another attempt was made to murder Him (Luke 4:29)**
- ✓ **And many times after, as we have seen in John's gospel, He was just a hair breadth away from being murdered**

***And to the degree that His light shines out from us we will be hated by unbelievers. *'If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you'* (John 15:18)**

***Why did Cain hate Abel? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous (1 Jn.3:12)**

****'For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light... And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them...all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light'* (Eph.5:8,11,13)**

'If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.' Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand'
(John 10:37-39)

God is portrayed in the works of Jesus as loving and compassionate; a God who has authority over demons and sickness, etc. This is because He is in the Father and the Father in Him

He went out of their circle and there was nothing they could do to hold Him. They tried to arrest Him, but could not

'And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed. Then many came to Him and said, "John performed no sign, but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true." And many believed in Him there'

(John 10:40-42)

Jesus left Jerusalem and didn't return there until Palm Sunday. He retreated for safety to the other side of Jordan

He left Jerusalem for now because He was not to die at the Feast of Dedication, when the Jews were looking for a military deliverer, but at the Passover Feast because they, and we, needed a Lamb who takes away the sins of the world

***Here we see the ministry of John was still bearing fruit. The people who were impacted by it came to hear Jesus and believed in Him**

***John performed no sign. Yet, his testimony of Jesus was sufficient**

***He went 'outside the camp' of organized Judaism. 'We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach' (Heb.13:10-13)**