

COMMUNION SERIES ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN THE OUTRAGEOUS CLAIMS OF JESUS: IS HE LUNATIC OR LORD?

John 10:22-42

Some of the most outrageous and clearest claims of Jesus about Himself are in our passage today. In fact, they are outrageous precisely because they are so clear. Even before this, Jesus meant to be clear, but His hearers refused to listen. But here, He comes across so plainly, that they try to kill Him on the spot for "blasphemy". As Dr. Ray Stedman said, the way He speaks here, means he is either a madman or the God-man.

What are these outrageous claims of Jesus? It all began with the challenge "If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."

1. Because Jesus is the Messiah, you are safe if He saved you, forever. (10:24-30)

v. 25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe." It's our turn to listen. Here's what we must believe:

a) You are safe because the Father gave you to Jesus. [vv. 24-27, 29]

v. 27 My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.

From the human standpoint, we become His sheep by believing; but from the divine standpoint, we believed because we are His sheep. This is a mystery we cannot fathom or explain, but we can accept it and rejoice.

b) You are safe because He gives eternal life to you. [v. 28]

v. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.

No stronger passage in the Bible exists, than vv. 28-29, for the absolute, eternal security of every true Christian. Keep these thoughts forever in your heart!

c) You are safe because both Jesus and the Father keep you. [vv. 28-30]

vv. 28-30 . . . no one can snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and the Father are One.

But the question is, has Jesus really saved you? There will be many self-deceived people someday who will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ, and who will hear the words, "depart from Me, I never knew you". Don't let that happen to you.

2. Because Jesus is God, always believe His Word and His Works (10:31–39)

a) His Works prove that He is God (31-32, 37-39).

v. 32 . . .but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father.

v. 38 . . .even though you do not believe Me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."

b) His Words prove that He is God (34-36).

"Is it not written in your Law . . . what about the One whom the Father set apart as His very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse Me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?"

Verse 36 gives a double affirmation of the deity of Christ. First, the Father set apart the Son and sent Him, and second, Jesus stated boldly, "I am the Son of God" (John 5:25).

c) The Inerrant Scriptures prove that He is God. (34)

"Is it not written in your Law . . . and the Scripture cannot be broken . . ."

Scripture can never be wrong. It cannot be set aside. It is not filled with errors. This is our Lord's view of the whole Old Testament, the Law, the Prophets and the Writings. Jesus picks an obscure psalm and a single word in the psalm to make His point. This means that the very words of Scripture are true and authoritative. They prove He is God.

Final Thoughts:

As a Christian, you must know that you are safe in the arms of Jesus. It frees you from thinking that God is looking over your shoulder, waiting for you to make a mistake, so He can find a reason to disown you. God is not like that. Nor are the painful things in a Christian's life always a punishment for sin.

Feed on the Words of Jesus, captured in the book called the Bible, because as He said "These are the Scriptures that testify about Me" (John 5:39). Keep your eyes open to His continuing work in you and around you, and realize that He is as alive and real today as when He walked the earth 2,000 years ago.