

“The Gospel of John: The Security of the Sheep”

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Scripture

John 10:22-30

“At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon.

24The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "**How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.**"

25Jesus answered them, "**I told you, and you do not believe;** the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me.

26"But **you do not believe because you are not of My sheep.**

27"**My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me**

28 and **I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.**

29"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.

30"**I and the Father are one.**"

Last Week

A picture of the True Shepherd

6 characteristics of good shepherds and two more “I AM” statements

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| 1. He Enters <u>in Transparency</u> not Misdirection | -> | “he who enters by the door” |
| 2. The Sheep <u>Hear His Voice</u> | -> | “the sheep hear his voice” |
| 3. He Calls the Sheep <u>by Name</u> | -> | “he calls his own sheep by name” |
| 4. He <u>Leads the Sheep Out from in Front</u> | -> | “leads them out - he goes ahead of them” |
| 5. The Sheep <u>Know His Voice</u> | -> | “they know his voice” |
| 6. The Sheep <u>Follow Him</u> | -> | “A stranger they simply will not follow” |

Evaluating ourselves and our pastors as shepherds

People (Jews) divided over Jesus -> Is He demon-possessed or insane?

This Week

The Jews, again, ask Jesus if He is the Christ

He already taught them about the True Shepherd

Now He teaches about His sheep

It is winter:

John 10:22-23

“At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon.”

Jesus is walking along the inside of the temple area, sheltered by the walls because of the wind

We see some of Jesus's humanity in this statement – it's cold, He looks for shelter from the wind

The Feast of the Dedication is Hanukkah

Celebration of the Jews because of the Maccabean revolt against Greek invaders

The Jews notice Jesus there and come for another Q&A session:

Are You the Christ?

John 10:24

“The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, **"How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."**

The Jews act like Jesus is hiding something from them

Jesus told the woman at the well He was the Messiah:

John 4:25-26

“The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He.”

Jesus had already told them He was the Messiah:

Luke 4:16-21 (reading from **Isaiah 61** in the synagogue)

“He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, **"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."** And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, **"Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."**

Jesus said His arrival was from above:

John 8:23-24

“He was saying to them, **"You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. "Therefore, I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."**

Unless they believed that He was God, they would die in their sins

Unfortunately, for them, they did not believe:

You Do Not Believe

John 10:25

“Jesus answered them, **“I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me.”**

The Jews would not come to Jesus:

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and **you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.**”

Even with all the evidence from the Old Testament

Even with all the works Jesus did:

John 5:36

“But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish-- **the very works that I do-- testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.**”

What works did Jesus do?

Healed many people: lame from birth, blind from birth

He fed the 5,000 and the 4,000 – He’s going to raise Lazarus from the dead soon!

He performed miracles on the Sabbath day to purposely draw awareness to them

With all the evidence available to the Jews, why wouldn’t they believe in Jesus?

Luke 16:19-31 (Rich Man and Lazarus)

“Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. "And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.

22"Now **the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom;** and the rich man also died and was buried. "**In Hades, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.** "And he cried out and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, **for I am in agony in this flame.**" "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and **you are in agony.** And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' "And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers-- in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' "But Abraham said, '**They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.**' "But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' "But he said to him, '**If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.**'”

What do we learn from this story?

- 1) There is a Heaven and a Hell
- 2) Heaven is comfort and Hell is torment
- 3) Believers are carried to Heaven by angels
- 4) Annihilationism is a lie
- 5) There is no crossing from Heaven to Hell or vice versa
- 6) Part of Hell's torment is the realization of Heaven's blessings
- 7) Wealth doesn't show God's exclusive blessing on you
- 8) Miraculous works will not cause people to believe

Why won't they believe?

You're Not My Sheep

John 10:26

"But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep."

Jesus answers that question for us -> There seems to be no chance that these will ever believe in Jesus

Only His chosen will ever believe

Jesus called these Jews "children of the devil" -> easy to see that they are not His sheep

What do the sheep do?

The Characteristics of My Sheep

John 10:27

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

"hear My voice" -> they are able to distinguish the call of God on their life

"I know them" -> it is an intimate relationship not a formal relationship

"they follow Me" -> they become disciples of Jesus – they are not "casual Christians"

They are not just mildly interested in what the Bible has to say

They are captivated by Jesus's words -> like Mary, sitting at Jesus's feet, while Martha chose to be working

Was there a time in your life where the words of the Bible were just "words"?

Maybe that's the case for you now...

Was a time when the Bible became a center point of your life?

If so, you became a disciple of Jesus -> you began to follow Him!

The formal relationship moved to an intimate one - He knows you and you know Him and hear His voice

The Security of My Sheep

John 10:28

"and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."

The Father gives the chosen to the Son, the Son gives eternal life to the chosen

Eternal life begins now and continues on forever

“they will never perish” -> to perish is to be destroyed – believers will not face eternal destruction

Perhaps you have heard of this verse:

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, **that whoever believes in Him shall not perish**, but have eternal life.”

All true believers in Jesus will go to Heaven

Why is that true?

The Strength of My Father

John 10:29

“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.”

We have been given to Jesus by the Father:

John 17:24 (praying for the disciples – and us – in His High Priestly Prayer)

“Father, I desire that they also, **whom You have given Me**, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”

We have been given from the Father to the Son

Jesus prays for us to see His glory in Heaven (“be with Me where I am”)

Do you think the Father will answer the Son's prayer?

Yes, Jesus says that it is the Father's will:

John 6:39

“This is the will of Him who sent Me, that **of all that He has given Me I lose nothing but raise it up on the last day.**”

How is that reflected in us?

We have received the Holy Spirit as a down payment on eternity:

Ephesians 1:13-14

“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, **you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise**, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view **to the redemption of God's own possession**, to the praise of His glory.”

But -> Is the Father not strong enough to make it happen?

Jesus says, “My Father is greater than all” -> He is Omnipotent!

But maybe the Father isn't paying attention to us?

"no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand" -> He holds on to His own!

Hebrews 13:5

"He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you"

We are secure in the Father's love!

You can't lose your trip to Heaven because it's not up to us to hold on Him -> He holds us

Isaiah 41:13-14

"For I am the LORD your God, **who upholds your right hand**, Who says to you, '**Do not fear, I will help you.**'
"Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you," declares the LORD, "and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel."

Isaiah 46:3-4

"Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, you who have been borne by Me from birth and have been carried from the womb; Even to your old age I will be the same, and **even to your graying years I will bear you! I have done it, and I will carry you; and I will bear you and I will deliver you.**"

God's deliverance of Israel is assured in His promises

We have the same "Blessed Assurance"

John 10:29-30

"I and the Father are one."

Jesus has said this often to the Jews -> He is God

Therefore, we are secure in the Jesus's love!

I love to read the promises of God from the Old Testament:

Isaiah 54:3-17

"Fear not, for you will not be put to shame; And do not feel humiliated, for you will not be disgraced; But you will forget the shame of your youth, And the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more. "For your husband is your Maker, whose name is the LORD of hosts; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth. "For the LORD has called you, like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, Even like a wife of one's youth when she is rejected," Says your God.

"For a brief moment I forsook you, but with great compassion I will gather you. "In an outburst of anger, I hid My face from you for a moment, but with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you," says the LORD your Redeemer. "For this is like the days of Noah to Me, When I swore that the waters of Noah would not flood the earth again; So, I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, nor will I rebuke you.

"For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, but My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, and My covenant of peace will not be shaken," says the LORD who has compassion on you. "O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted, Behold, I will set your stones in antimony, and your

foundations I will lay in sapphires. "Moreover, I will make your battlements of rubies, and your gates of crystal, And your entire wall of precious stones.

"All your sons will be taught of the LORD; and the well-being of your sons will be great. **"In righteousness you will be established; You will be far from oppression, for you will not fear; and from terror, for it will not come near you.**" If anyone fiercely assails you it will not be from Me. Whoever assails you will fall because of you. "Behold, I Myself have created the smith who blows the fire of coals and brings out a weapon for its work; And I have created the destroyer to ruin.

17**"No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; and every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn.** This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their vindication is from Me," declares the LORD."

Israel's future is bright – they will have nothing to fear during the Tribulation – as long as they know the Lord

For us, it is the same, as Paul wrote:

Romans 8:31-39

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

35**Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?** Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

37But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. **For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God,** which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Whom shall we fear? No one...

What shall we fear? Nothing...

Not even our physical death from the earth!

As long as we've given our lives to the Lord of Ages!

Is your future safe and secure in the love of Jesus?

Are you 100% sure you will go to Heaven?

Today could be the day you make that sure commitment to Him

Prayer

Benediction