

“The Gospel of John: The Charge Is Levied”

Dr. Geoffrey Plummer
Calvary Baptist Church

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Scripture

John 10:31-42

“The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.

Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; **for which of them are you stoning Me?**"

The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, **but for blasphemy**; and because **You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.**"

Jesus answered them, "**Has it not been 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'?"

"**If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me**; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."

Therefore, they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp.

And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He was staying there. Many came to Him and were saying, "While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true." **Many believed in Him there.**"

Last Two Weeks

“I am the good shepherd”

The security of the sheep -> we are eternally secure in Jesus if we believe in Him

Believing in Him is not head knowledge only -> it involved hearing Him, knowing Him, and following Him

“I and the Father are one”

This Week

The Jews layout their plan for the final charge against Jesus

We have to remember John’s court case scene

A Stoning

John 10:31

“The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.”

This is the third time that the Jews had attempted to kill Jesus -> attempt to seize Him many times

John 5:18 -> After healing a man on the Sabbath and claiming He was equal to the Father

John 8:59 -> When Jesus said that He was “before Abraham” and the “I AM”

Luke 4:28-29 -> After reading from Isaiah in the synagogue and claiming to be the Messiah

The devil also tried to get Jesus to commit suicide

Matthew 4:5-6 -> jump off the temple and the angels should catch you!

Was stoning authorized by God?

Yes:

Leviticus 24:10-16

“Now the son of an Israelite woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the sons of Israel; and the Israelite woman's son and a man of Israel struggled with each other in the camp. **The son of the Israelite woman blasphemed the Name and cursed.** So, they brought him to Moses. (Now his mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.) They put him in custody so that the command of the LORD might be made clear to them.

13Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Bring the one who has cursed outside the camp, and let all who heard him lay their hands on his head; then let all the congregation stone him. "You shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, If anyone curses his God, then he will bear his sin. **Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him.** The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.”

Do we have an example in the New Testament?

Acts 7:54-58 -> The Jews stone Stephen after he preaches at them and sees Jesus in Heaven

Acts 14:19 -> Paul seized by the Jews and stoned to death for preaching Jesus in Lystra

Acts 21:31-32 -> Paul seized in the temple and dragged out to be killed

In Jesus’s case, the Jews would have killed Him on the spot - Even though the Romans forbid vigilante justice

What’s the Charge?

John 10:32

“Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; **for which of them are you stoning Me?**”

Jesus, seeing the stones in their hands, asks to be told what His crime is

It’s a natural question, “What have I done?”

The Jews were plenty ready with a response -> they have been building a case against Jesus for YEARS!

God Complex!

John 10:33

“The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, **but for blasphemy;** and because **You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.**”

"It's not what you've done, but what you've said!"

Jesus is God and the Messiah, therefore, it was not blasphemy

Jewish historian Josephus confirmed that blasphemy was the charge against Jesus

Mark 14:53-64 (Jesus's Jewish Trial)

"They led Jesus away to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes gathered together. Peter had followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the officers and warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, and they were not finding any. For many were giving false testimony against Him, but their testimony was not consistent.

57Some stood up and began to give false testimony against Him, saying, "We heard Him say, I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands." Not even in this respect was their testimony consistent.

60The high priest stood up and came forward and questioned Jesus, saying, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?" But He kept silent and did not answer. Again, the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" **And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."**

63Tearing his clothes, the high priest said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? "You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?" And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death."

Jesus did not hide who He was from them -> they asked, and He answered "I AM"

You Think Your God!

John 10:34-36

"Jesus answered them, "**Has it not been 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'?"

Jesus quotes Psalm 82, which I read earlier

Psalm 82 speaks to unjust judges -> those who judge without fairness

The picture of the judiciary shows a lady holding scales with a blindfold on -> justice without favoritism

Psalm 82:6-7

"I said, "You are gods, and all of you are sons of the Most High. Nevertheless you will die like men and fall like any one of the princes."

The Jews thought themselves to be in charge rather than God being in charge – common today in churches

The Messiah was predicted to come, yet they were unwilling to consider Jesus as Him

The farther you stray from the Bible and righteous living, the more difficult it is to discern the truth

God established the leaders – but these leaders had established their own rules -> taking the place of God

You know, the Bible says that Christians shouldn't smoke, right?

The Bible says that Christians shouldn't be cremated, right?

The Father established Jesus as the Messiah -> He had the right to claim the title God granted to Him

Their Last Chance

John 10:37-38

"If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."

This is the last of Jesus's public ministry -> He will do some private ministry and then He goes to the cross

If you won't believe My words, Jesus says

Again, look at what works I have done in the Father's name

"If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me" -> "validate what I've done!"

Isn't the Messiah predicted to do these things?

"so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father"?

The Pharisees SHOULD have known Jesus was the Messiah!

Instead of listening to His words and looking at His works, they took a different tack

The Jews said that Jesus did these works with the power of the devil:

Matthew 12:22-24

"Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw. All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "**This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.**"

You know what it is called when someone attributes God's works to the devil?

Blasphemy!

The Pharisees were guilty of blasphemy and Jesus was not -> **talk about a failure of justice!**

The Jews should have been stoned to death:

Isaiah 5:20

"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!"

They achieved their goal, using the Romans as the executioner but His blood is on their hands

Not So Fast

John 10:39

"Therefore, they were seeking again to seize Him, and **He eluded their grasp.**"

Jesus continued to elude the Jews:

Luke 4 -> they try and throw Him off a cliff -> **v. 30** -> "but passing through their midst, He went His way"

John 7:30

"So, they were seeking to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come."

Jesus controlled whether the Jews could seize Him or not

Jesus could miraculously escape:

John 8:59

"Therefore, they picked up stones to throw at Him, **but Jesus hid Himself** and went out of the temple."

Jesus could hide Himself -> disappear from sight

We see this after the Resurrection with the couple on the way to Emmaus

Luke 24:16 -> "But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him."

Jesus controlled whether He could be found

With His public ministry completed, the Pharisees no longer had any hope of finding salvation:

The Last Straw

John 10:40-42

"And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He was staying there. Many came to Him and were saying, "While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true." **Many believed in Him there.**"

Jesus returns to where His public ministry began -> where He was baptized in the Jordan river

"While John performed no sign" – he was the forerunner for the Messiah-> he identified Jesus

What did John say?

John 1:29

"The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

"Many believed in Him there" -> The Light of the World was about to be snuffed out -> but there was still time

There is still time today -> time to repent before the end comes -> time to obey the Son and live!

Prayer

Benediction