

John 2021 #22 (9.19.21) #21077

John 10:22-42

The Sheep of His Hand

I. Background. Feast of Dedication. Celebrated in December.

A. Hannukah, Feast of Lights, Feast of Dedication.

1. National feast commemorating the re-dedication of the temple after the defeat of Greek forces in 164-65 BC. It is a feast that speaks of God's deliverance and restoration of true worship.

B. It focused on the last great deliverance that Israel had.

1. Dedicating the Temple, beginning true worship.

II. Jesus gets surrounded by Jewish leaders: John 10:22-42.

A. Tell us if you are the Messiah. ("How long will you annoy us?") 24-25

1. They probably want him to use the title Messiah so they can accuse him of insurrection. The term Messiah was freighted heavily with anti-Roman nationalistic aspirations. The Jews want to associate Jesus with this sort of rebellion.

B. I did tell you and you continue to refuse to believe. You don't trust me. 26

1. I told you: The Bread of Life Discourse, the Good Shepherd Discourse.

a) *Think!! Who else but Messiah could or would say such things?*

2. I showed you: The works (miracles) he had done. (Jn.3:1-3)

a) *Think!!! Who else but God could do such things?*

3. Because you are not of my flock, not my sheep. 26

a) Your unbelief is not due to lack of evidence but do to the fact that you do not belong to me.

b) Note the way he says this. It implies predestination. They don't trust him because they aren't his. The Father has not given them to the Son and the Son does not "know" them (see Matt.7:23)

c) *God draws a distinction between people who belong to him and those who don't.*

C. Let me tell you about my sheep...27-30

1. They hear my voice...

a) This must be spiritually. (ears to hear... Matt.11:15).

2. I know them...

a) For God to "know" someone is not that he is simply aware of them, but that he chooses them, initiates a relationship with them that is grounded in covenant love toward them by grace. 1 Jn.4:9-10

3. They follow me...Matt.11:25-30

a) Intuitively and continually.

4. I give them eternal life...which is why they do not perish...

a) *This is Christ's own eternal life, his destiny and goodness. 5:24*

5. My Father has given them to me... (Jn.6:44; 63-65)

a) His sovereignty is universal, and nobody can take them away from Him.

6. And I and the Father are one. (Col.2:8-9)

a) Not one person, but one in essence and purpose. The Son is not the Father, but shares the same essence as the Father—full deity. This is seedbed of Trinitarian theology.

D. We're going to kill you...31-39

1. Why? For what good deeds (the only kind I have done)?

2. You, a man, yourself God!

a) *He does not correct them here!*

3. Hey, your own Law (Ps 82) calls the judges (or maybe spirit creatures) "gods" because God's Word was given to them.

4. So, what's wrong with me referring to myself as the Son of God?

a) If I'm not doing God's works, then don't believe me.

5. You need to know and understand something crucial...

a) *The Father is in Me and I am in the Father. See v.30. Far from backing off on his previous statement, he presses the point of the metaphysical unity of the Father and the Son.*

b) There is a metaphysical unity between the Father and the Son in addition to a unity of purpose, plan, and action, such that the Son is deity in bodily form. Col.2:8-9

c) But there is also a distinction between them. They are not “each other.”

d) *At the heart of Trinitarian theology.*

6. *Hey...Where did he go...?*

E. Actually...not yet... 40-42. (4 months later, at Passover)

1. He slips a significant distance away, across the Jordan.

2. People remembered John the Baptist's witness and began to trust Christ for who he really is.

III. Christian: Think about who you are: If you have come to Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd...

A. You have come to God himself. 10:30; 38. (5:22-23) (Ps.23)

1. If you haven't come to Christ, you haven't come to God (not my sheep)

a) This is unpalatable to our culture, and to Jewish thinking at the time.

2. This is both exclusive (no other paths lead to God) and universal (anybody can come) (as Travis mentioned last week)

B. You have God's life in you as a gift. 28. *I give them eternal life.*

1. It is a gift, by grace through faith, not a wage earned by works. Rom.6:23

2. Your forgiveness and regeneration are directly from Him by grace.

C. You are here because He knows and loves you. 27-29. (Eph.1:1-2:10)

1. Know = in a selective way.

2. Know = covenant love put on you. **1 Jn.4:9-10**

D. Your intuition is to follow Him = be his disciple. 27.

1. You continue to listen for his voice, his Word.

2. Disciples are apprentices, not just “students” in a classroom.

a) They follow = learn from and seek to learn the skill of thinking, feeling, and living like Jesus.

b) (Ps.23:3. He restores my soul and leads me in paths of goodness (righteousness).

3. How does “following” begin? **Matt. 11:28-30**

a) Turn around and trust him personally, and be baptized.

b) Baptism, discipleship, trust, focus (Matt.28:18-20)

4. If we do wander, he comes and gets us and brings us back. (Heb.12)

E. You will not be lost. 28.

1. Note that they cannot be stolen from the Lord.

2. There are fake believers (1 Cor.15:2; 2 Cor.13:5; 1 Jn.2:19)

a) They do not care what Jesus says (Matt.7:21-23)

3. If you are worried about turning away, you have not turned away.

IV. So...Are these things true of you? Do you want them to be true?

A. If not yet, then come and receive eternal life from the Lord today.