

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Father and I Are One

Last time...the Pharisees down by the Jordan River attempted to threaten, intimidate, and manipulate Jesus.

Jesus cannot be intimidated or manipulated.

He called out with desperate love to His people to come to Him for protection from the fierce storm on the horizon

A lesson in discerning whose voice we are hearing

This time...Jesus goes up to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Dedication, and has another confrontation with the Pharisees in Herod's Temple

We will be in John 10

v22-23 feast of dedication...winter...Solomon's Porch:

Jesus has returned to Jerusalem, the stronghold of murderous hostility toward Him, from His evangelizing down by the Jordan River

Notice the timestamp: winter

There is about three months of time in the white space

between v21 (Feast of Tabernacles) and v22 (Feast of Dedication)

The Jews added two feasts to the Feasts of the LORD –

Purim (victory over Haman in the days of the Persian Empire)

Dedication aka Hanukkah

Hanukkah is a celebration of the successful revolt of 164 BC led by the Maccabees against Antiochus Epiphanes after his “abomination that causes desolation” that defiled the 2nd Temple

It was instituted by Judas Maccabaeus to commemorate the recapture of Jerusalem from the Syrian Greeks and the subsequent repair and re-dedication of the Temple (2nd)

- Epiphanes
 - king of the “Syrian” portion of the Greek Empire
 - “god manifest”
 - a madman who attempted to exterminate the Jews
 - offered a pig on a pagan altar in the Temple, igniting a Jewish revolt and starting the Wars of the Maccabees
 - foretold by God thru the prophet Daniel (Dan 11) about 370 years prior, before the Greek Empire

- The Maccabees
 - led the Jewish revolt against the Greeks
 - established Jewish self-rule to fill the resulting power vacuum between the Greek and Roman Empires
 - combined the offices of King (Judah) and High Priest (Levi)
 - contrary to the Law
 - creating a group of rulers called the...Pharisees, the descendents of want to kill the only True High Priest/King of Israel

- The oil and the menorah

For the Temple to be put back into service, oil was needed for the menorah in the Holy Place

Only 1 container of oil that was still sealed by the High Priest was found; all others had been desecrated

This single vessel would keep the lamps of the menorah burning for only one day...but according to tradition it miraculously kept the lamps burning for 8 days until more pure oil could be prepared

Hence, the 8 days of Hanukkah

Also, introduced at this time by the Maccabees was the 9 branched menorah (vine + 8), which is not Biblical (not to surprisingly)

Back to the Feast of the Dedication (Hanukkah) in John 10

Jerusalem in the winter is wet and cold

Therefore Jesus is teaching in the Temple (Herod's, 3rd), in Solomon's Porch, the long covered colonnade on the eastern boundary of the Temple

[graphic]

Here, the people (God's flock) could assemble and be sheltered from the rain and cold wind

Note: We are again in Jerusalem;

Jesus evangelized Judea, Galilee, Perea, and the Decapolis

(Gospels of Matt, Mark, Luke) returning to Jerusalem for some of the Feasts

Those times in Jerusalem we find in the Gospel of John

v24 the Jews round about...make us to doubt...tell us plainly:
It doesn't take long before Jesus is surrounded by Pharisees
They press Him to tell them plainly, leaving no room for doubt, as to whether or
not He is the Messiah

What we have here, as we did in Luke 13:31-35 is more manipulation and
intimidation

After all...John 9:22 (the previous time He was in Jerusalem)

They do not believe that He is the Messiah

- He is a repeated Sabbath-Law breaker
- He dares to forgive sins (Ps 51:4)
- He is not in the mold they are looking for – a King and a Liberator
(like their predecessor, Judas Macabees)

They are not spiritually discerned (1 Cor 2:7-14)
So they are not looking for clarity or truth,
they are looking for a reason to kill Jesus

v25 I told you and ye believed not:
Jesus is not fooled by the feigned interest in truth any more than He was fooled by
the feigned concern for His life (Luke 13:31)
He sees thru their manipulation and intimidation, telling them very plainly what
the situation really is:

He has told them plainly that He is the Messiah, but they do not believe Him

The problem is not His (not speaking plainly),
the problem is theirs (not believing what He has told them...their choice)

John 5:17-18
John 5:21-27

Matt 11:27 (in Galilee) All things are delivered unto me of
my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father;
neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he
to whomsoever the Son will reveal *him*. (by faith)

John 6:35, 41 (in Capernaum)

John 7:37-38
John 8:12
John 8:24-29
John 8:58-59

the works...bear witness of Me:

They did not believe the words of Jesus...or the works

John 5:36-38

John 9

Matt 11:1-15...telling 2 disciples of John the Baptist: Is 35:4-6

Is 35:4-6 Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *even* God *with* a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert

Is 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound

v26 believe not...not of My sheep:

Jesus tells the Pharisees plainly that they have

- no faith (Gen 15:6)
- closed minds
- hard hearts
- stiff necks (un-teachable, obstinate)

because, as He has also told them previously, they are not of His sheep
(by their choice, not His)

v1-4, 14

v27 My sheep:

To be in Jesus' flock, one must

- hear His voice...small still, calm, peaceful
- be known by Him...in relationship with Him
(knowing Him, much more than knowing about)
- follow Him...their choice in action
 - follow/obey/deny Self vs follow/hunt
(the Pharisees have been following Jesus everywhere He has gone)
 - continue following, no matter what or no matter where
 - Matt 7:21-23 is NOT following Jesus (is following Self)
 - Luke 13:24-27 is NOT following Jesus

v28-29 I give them eternal life:

Who can give eternal life but He Who has eternal life?

God has eternal life (Gen 1:1, Is 57:15)

Who has power over death?

Therefore Jesus is saying very plainly: He is God

Who is “them” to whom is given God’s eternal life?

His sheep that hear His voice, are known of Him, and follow Him

And when God gives eternal life, neither devil nor man can take it away

Therefore, Matt 10:28

Luke 12:4

Here we have the eternal assurance of the saints,

the inheritance of the saints (Col 1:12) who enter into God’s rest by the faith of Jesus

His sheep are, indeed, in Good Hands!

Rom 8:31-39

If God be for us, who can be against us?

Who can condemn us since Jesus has justified us?

Who/what can separate us from the love of God?

We are more than conquerors!

1 Cor 3:23

We are Christ’s and Christ is God’s

John 1:12

as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name

v30 I and Father are one:

Another very clear answer to the Pharisees “question”/demand in v24

“I and Father” (*my* is in italics) are one...in nature, in essence

Deut 6:4

“one” = *echad* = “united”, “together”...a compound unity

Distinct but inseparable (Gen 2:24)

All characteristics of God are true of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Gen 1:1...Elohim

Did the Pharisees understand Jesus?

v31 took up stones again to stone Him:

Most definitely!!

The Pharisees plainly understood what Jesus plainly said

They asked for a clear answer, they got it...and they also got

- the truth...but they again did not believe it
- what they were looking for...a reason to kill Jesus

Again they pick up stones to kill Jesus – John 8:59 after He gave them a clear answer as to His identity (Deity)

But...again, they could not

Is Jesus in a life-threatening situation?

No!

The Father is in absolute control, Jesus' hour had not yet come

v32 Many good works...which of those good works:

Jesus calmly presses the Pharisees on their unbelief and confronts their religion

They did not believe His words...they have no faith, again right now

They have a works-based system of salvation so He calmly asks them about which of His many good works

- miracles, which they could not deny
- works the Father gave Him to do

they deem Him to be worthy of death

v33 blasphemy...make Yourself God:

They cannot so they do not deny His good works (miracles)

But they take great exception to His very clear statement(s) of His Deity

They believe He is a blasphemer, worthy of death

Lev 24:16 he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, *and* all the congregation shall certainly stone him

After all, how can man become God?

No man can

But...God can become a man

And did...the Incarnation

Unbelief has prevented them from rightly dividing the Word of God

They (man) interpreted the Word of God, rather than Scripture interpreting Scripture (i.e. the Author interprets)

So, using Scripture, Jesus addresses their objection/unbelief

v34-36 I...He...Whom...Him...I am:

First of all, the Scripture Jesus quotes Ps 82:6

“gods” = *theos* (Gr) = “deity” or “Supreme Divinity”
or “magistrates”

“gods” = *elohim* (Heb) = “gods” or “the Supreme God” (Gen 1:1)
or “magistrates”

Ex 22:8-9

“judges” = *elohim*...magistrate

Deut 1:15-17

- Hear all sides of the controversy
- Judge/make verdicts righteously (according to God’s Law)
- Do not play favorites (righteous judgment is “blind”)
- Fear God, not man
- As His representative (the judgment is God’s)

In Israel, the recipients of God’s Law (“them” in v35), the judges were to rule God’s people with God’s authority (Law/Word)

Thus, “gods” = judges

Now, let’s read Jesus’ words carefully, connecting the personal pronouns in His words

- I said, ye are gods
- **He** called them gods
- Say ye of **Him**, Whom the Father
 - has sanctified
 - sent into the world (from eternity)
- I said
- I am the Son of God

What is Jesus saying of **Himself** to the Pharisees?

- He is the Author of the Law
- The Father sent Him from heaven to earth
- He, of the same nature and essence as the Father, is pre-existent and eternal
- He is God
 - Deut 10:17 “Elohim” is “Elohim” of “elohim”
 - Deut 10:21 His works declare it!
 - Deut 11:7 they are eyewitnesses, without excuse
- He is the Son of God
- He is the Incarnation of God, Emmanuel... the Kinsman-Redeemer, Messiah/Christ
 - Is 7:14 virgin birth, named Immanuel
 - Is 9:6 the mighty God, the everlasting Father
 - Gen 1:26-27 let Us make man in Our image
 - Dan 7:13 Son of man coming in clouds of heaven
 - Micah 5:2 ruler coming from everlasting
- He did not and could not possibly blaspheme (Num 23:19a)
- The Word of God is infallible, inerrant, inspired

v37-38 If I do not...But if I do:

Jesus challenges the unbelief of the Pharisees

“If I do not the works of My Father (works only God could do), do not believe Me (My words).

But if I do the works only God can do, believe the works even though you do not believe My words so that you will know

- The Father is in Me
- I am in the Father
- I and Father are one (v30, Jesus is God)

Did the Pharisees understand what Jesus said?

v39-40 sought again to take Him:

Most definitely!

The Pharisees clearly understood...and clearly believed nothing He said, thereby denying the works also

They again attempt to stone Jesus to death...but they cannot

It is not the Father’s time, it is not the Father’s way

Jesus calmly makes His adieu, leaves Jerusalem, and returns (went again) to the Jordan River

v41-42 many resorted...many believed:

The Pharisees are in utter unbelief and out of their minds frustrated in their attempts to kill Jesus

But many accompanied Jesus to the Jordan River, believing John the Baptist's testimony of Him (*post mortem* for the prophet), that He is the Messiah

The words and works substantiated the testimony of John the Baptist

And many believed on Him

But their faith will be tested.

Many to this day do not believe that Jesus Christ is the One True, eternal, pre-existent God that became man in order to

- call sinners to repentance
- seek and save the lost
- pay God's ransom for the captives
- reconcile to God whosoever would believe in Him

Many religious folks do not believe that Jesus Christ ever claimed to be God
He quite clearly did...repeatedly

For those who believe:

John 20:30-31

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name

Know that you know!

For those who do not believe or are backslidden:

Without faith in Jesus Christ, there is no eternal life, only eternal death

John 17:2-3 *As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent*

1 John 5:11-13 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Acts 2:37-38 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost

What do you say?

Who is Jesus?

“Who do you say that I am?”

Every person must make that decision and declare it