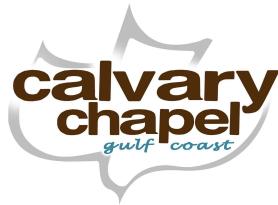




Summary

In John 10:22-42, we delve into the profound declaration of Jesus' divinity and His relationship with the Father. We're challenged to consider what it truly means to be one of Christ's sheep, hearing His voice and following Him. The passage reminds us that our security in Christ is unshakeable - no one can snatch us from His hand or the Father's hand. This truth offers immense comfort in our daily struggles and uncertainties. As we reflect on Jesus' confrontation with the religious leaders, we're prompted to examine our own hearts. Are we truly listening to Jesus' voice? Are we allowing His truth to transform us, or are we resisting like those who sought to stone Him? This message invites us to embrace the freedom that comes from abiding in Christ's word and knowing His truth.



Points

Title: The Good Shepherd's Truth: Recognizing Jesus' Divinity and Responding to His Call

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores Jesus' encounter with Jewish leaders during the Feast of Dedication, focusing on His claims of divinity and the leaders' hostile reaction. It emphasizes the importance of recognizing Jesus as the Son of God, the necessity of being "born again," and the freedom that comes from abiding in Christ's truth. The pastor draws parallels between the rejection Jesus faced and modern-day challenges to Christian faith, urging believers to stand boldly for truth in an increasingly hostile world.

Key Points:

- Jesus declares His divinity and oneness with the Father
- The Jewish leaders' rejection of Jesus stems from their refusal to believe, not lack of evidence
- Believing in Jesus and abiding in His word leads to freedom and true discipleship
- The Holy Spirit's role in convicting hearts and revealing truth
- The importance of recognizing and responding to Jesus as the Good Shepherd
- Christians are called to stand boldly for truth in the face of opposition

Scripture Reference:

- John 10:22-42 (primary passage)
- John 8:31-32, 58
- Matthew 12:31
- 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
- 2 Corinthians 2:15-17

Stories:

- The origin of Hanukkah (Feast of Dedication) and the miracle of the oil
- Paul's testimony of his former life as a persecutor of Christians (Acts 22)
- Brief mention of Charlie Kirk's recent assassination (as a contemporary example of standing for truth)



Scripture

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, listed in standard notation:

1. John 10:22-30
2. John 10:1-21 (alluded to as previous study)
3. John 4:25-26
4. John 9:35-38
5. Matthew 16:13-20
6. John 5 (alluded to for fourfold witness)
7. John 10:2-6
8. 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
9. 2 Corinthians 2:15-17
10. Matthew 12:31
11. Acts 22:1-5
12. John 8:58-59
13. Exodus 3 (alluded to for "I AM" name of God)
14. Isaiah 9:6
15. Isaiah 7:14
16. Exodus 21:6
17. Exodus 22:6
18. Psalm 82:6-7
19. John 10:17-18
20. John 14:6
21. John 8:31-32
22. Acts 4 (alluded to for apostles praying for boldness)

Additional relevant verses that align with the main themes discussed:

1. John 3:3 (on being born again)
2. Romans 6:23 (on sin and salvation)
3. Ephesians 2:8-9 (on salvation by grace through faith)
4. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (on becoming a new creation in Christ)
5. Revelation 3:20 (on inviting Jesus into one's heart)



Quotes

Jesus answered them, I told you and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me, but you do not believe because you are not of my sheep.

My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me and I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. Neither shall anyone snatch them out of my hand.

I and my Father are one.

For a good work we do not stone you but for blasphemy and because you being a man make yourself God.

If I do not do the works of my Father, do not believe me. But if I do, though you do not believe me, believe the works of that you may know and believe that the Father is in me and I in him.

Truth does not die when crushed by a stone, at the piercing of a sword, when nailed to a cross, or in the brutal force of an assassin's bullet. Truth is always, always, always resurrected from the dead no matter how hard Satan tries to stamp it out.

I am the way, the truth and the life, and here's the truth, here's the way, and here's the life, no one comes to the Father except through me.

If you abide in my word, you are my disciples indeed and you shall know the truth. And the truth shall make you free.



Discussion Questions

How do you personally relate to Jesus' metaphor of being a shepherd and his followers being sheep? What does it mean to you to 'hear his voice' in your own life?

The sermon mentions the concept of 'blasphemy against the Holy Spirit'. How do you understand this idea, and what implications might it have for one's spiritual journey?

How does the pastor's interpretation of Jesus' claim 'I and the Father are one' shape your understanding of the Trinity? What questions or insights does this raise for you?

The sermon discusses the anger of atheists and agnostics as potentially stemming from suppressed conviction. Do you agree with this perspective? Why or why not?

How do you reconcile Jesus' message of inclusion with the exclusion of those who reject him? What does this teach us about the nature of God's love and justice?

The pastor draws parallels between the hostility Jesus faced and modern cultural conflicts. How can Christians navigate contemporary disagreements while maintaining their faith and values?

What does it mean to you personally to be 'free' in Christ, as discussed in the sermon? How has this freedom manifested in your own life or the lives of others you know?

The sermon touches on the historical accuracy of Jesus' resurrection. How important is historical evidence to your faith, and how do you balance faith with empirical knowledge?

How do you interpret Jesus' statement that 'no one comes to the Father except through me' in a diverse, multi-faith world? What challenges and opportunities does this present for interfaith dialogue?

The pastor speaks about the need for boldness in facing contemporary evils. How can believers discern when to speak out and when to show grace in confronting societal issues?



Small Group Guide: Jesus' Identity and Our Response

Key Takeaways:

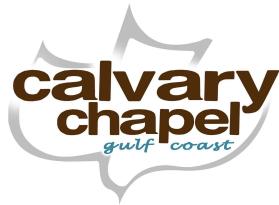
1. Jesus declares His divine identity as one with the Father.
2. The religious leaders' rejection of Jesus stemmed from their unwillingness to believe, not lack of evidence.
3. True followers of Jesus hear His voice and follow Him.
4. Jesus offers eternal security to those who believe in Him.
5. The truth of Jesus' identity and message sets people free.

Discussion Questions:

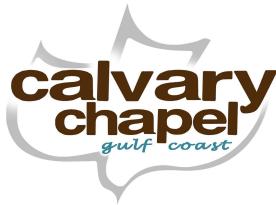
1. What does Jesus mean when He says "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30)? How does this statement relate to Jesus' identity?
2. Why do you think the religious leaders were so resistant to Jesus' claims? How might their position and power have influenced their response?
3. Jesus says His sheep hear His voice and follow Him. In what ways do you "hear" Jesus' voice in your life? How do you discern His guidance?
4. Discuss the concept of eternal security as presented in John 10:28-29. How does this promise impact your faith and daily life?
5. The sermon mentions that "suppressed conviction turns into anger." Have you observed this in your own life or in others? How can we respond to conviction in a healthy way?
6. How does Jesus' statement "the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32) apply to our lives today? What areas of freedom have you experienced through faith in Christ?
7. The pastor draws a parallel between the religious leaders' rejection of Jesus and modern-day resistance to truth. How can we stand firm in truth while showing love to those who disagree?

Practical Applications:

1. Spend time this week meditating on John 10:22-42. Journal your thoughts and any insights you receive.
2. Practice listening for God's voice through prayer, Scripture reading, and reflection. Share with the group next week how this exercise impacted you.



3. Identify an area of your life where you need to experience more of Christ's freedom. Pray for breakthrough and seek accountability from a trusted friend or group member.
4. Consider how you can courageously share the truth of Jesus with others in your sphere of influence. Brainstorm gentle and respectful ways to engage in conversations about faith.
5. Reflect on your own response to conviction. Are there areas where you might be resisting God's truth? Commit to addressing these with honesty and humility.
6. Look for opportunities to encourage fellow believers by reminding them of the security we have in Christ. Send a text or note to someone who might need this reminder.
7. As a group, discuss ways you can support and pray for Christians facing persecution for their faith, both locally and globally.



Daily Devotional

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the transcription:

Day 1: The Good Shepherd's Voice

Reading: John 10:22-30

Devotional: Jesus declares, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." In a world full of competing voices and distractions, how attuned are we to the voice of our Shepherd? Reflect on the times you've felt God's guidance in your life. Consider the areas where you might be struggling to hear His voice clearly. Today, take time to quiet your heart and listen. Ask God to sharpen your spiritual hearing and deepen your ability to recognize His voice amidst the noise of daily life. Remember, as His sheep, you are known intimately by the Shepherd who loves you unconditionally.

Day 2: Unbreakable Security

Reading: John 10:27-30

Devotional: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand." What incredible assurance! In a world where so much feels uncertain and fragile, Jesus offers unshakeable security. Meditate on the depth of God's love and power that holds you securely. Are there areas in your life where you feel vulnerable or afraid? Bring those before God today, remembering that you are held in both the Son's and the Father's hands. Let this truth sink deep into your soul, dispelling fear and nurturing a profound sense of peace and belonging.

Day 3: Light in the Darkness

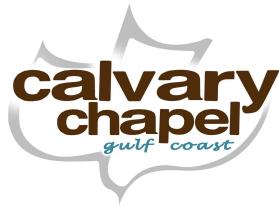
Reading: John 3:16-21

Devotional: "Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil." This passage reveals the heart of the gospel - God's love confronting human darkness. Reflect on areas in your life or in society where you see this tension between light and darkness. How has Christ's light transformed your own life? Consider how you might be called to be a bearer of that light in your sphere of influence. Pray for courage to step out of comfort zones and shine Christ's love in dark places, remembering that the light always overcomes the darkness.

Day 4: Freedom in Truth

Reading: John 8:31-36

Devotional: "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Jesus promises a profound freedom that comes from abiding in His word. What does this freedom look like in practical terms? Reflect on areas where you've experienced liberation through Christ - perhaps from fear, addiction, or harmful thought patterns. Are there still chains that need breaking in your life? Spend time



meditating on God's truth today, asking Him to apply it to those areas where you long for greater freedom. Remember, true freedom is not just absence of constraint, but the positive power to live as God intended.

Day 5: Unshakeable Faith in Trials

Reading: John 16:33

Devotional: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Jesus doesn't promise an easy life, but He does promise His presence and ultimate victory. Reflect on challenges you're currently facing or times of trial you've endured. How have you experienced Christ's overcoming power in those moments? Today, bring your current struggles before God, asking for a fresh infusion of His peace and strength. Remember that your trials are temporary, but God's love and power are eternal. Let this truth anchor your soul in the midst of life's storms.

A large, faint watermark of the Calvary Chapel Gulf Coast logo is positioned in the lower half of the page. The logo consists of the words "calvary" and "chapel" in a large, black, sans-serif font, with "gulf coast" in a smaller, blue, lowercase font below "chapel". The logo is set against a light gray, textured circular background that overlaps the page's footer area.