

Gospel of John 10.2

From Chapter 6 to Chapter 7, there is a 6-month gap

Chapter 7 - 10 takes place in 9 days. The last day of the feast, the day after the feast, Jesus is brought a woman caught in adultery. Jesus has a heated debate with the leaders. Jesus says, "Before Abraham was I Am." They want to stone Jesus

Jesus leaves (chapter 9), and as He is going, there is a blind man whom Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The religious leaders want to know how Jesus did this, and they cast the man out of the Synagogue

Jesus finds the blind man and asks Do you believe and the man says I believe

Then Jesus describes what happened to the man with the 2 sheepfolds, how the blind man hears the good shepherd's voice

From verses 21-22, here we have a 3-month gap again

Because Joh wrote this gospel that we may believe so he is interested in showing us specific events that we may believe

John 10:22 Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. **23** And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch.

- Jesus returns to the temple to teach, and the religious leaders have already determined to kill Jesus
- The Feast of Dedication was not a **biblical feast**; Israel was not commanded to keep the feast, but Israel celebrated it in the temple, and Jesus came to this feast (Christmas)
 - The Feast of Dedication comes from re-dedicating the temple in 164 BC
 - They were celebrating Hanukkah, also called the Feast of Lights, or the Feast of Dedication
 - After Alexander the Great, his kingdom was divided among his 4 generals, and they kept the kingdom. They wanted to further the design of Alexander, spreading the Greek culture around the world.
 - Everyone submitted to it, all the nations, except this little nation that wanted to keep their language, their worship, their law
 - Eventually, a man named Antiuchus came into power. He was so intent on making the Jews vow down.
 - He came to Jerusalem and killed 80,000 jews, and he took 40,000 captive
 - He desecrated the temple, installed a statue of Zeus, the Greek god, sacrificed pigs, and spread the blood of pigs on the Altar of the Lord
 - He took control and made the Jews worship Zeus
 - Until a group of priests, Mathias and his sons, one of wich was Judas Maccabees
 - They started what I know as the Maccabean revolt
 - They overthrew Antiochus and cleansed the temple
 - They rededicated the temple to Yahweh
- There is a legend that the Jewish people celebrated and still celebrate in this feast
 - They lit the candlestick (Menorah) inside the holy place, but they only had enough oil for 1 day
 - It took 8 days to make the proper oil to use in the temple. Jewish legend has it that the oil lasted for the 8 days in the temple until there was new oil (that's why it's also called the feast of lights)
 - So Jewish people celebrate this feast to celebrate the rededication of the temple, they light a Hanukkah candlestick with 9 branches in honor of that happened in the temple

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- There's a reason that John mentions this to us
- Because the Messiah that the Jews were expecting, they believed would be someone like Judas Maccabeus, who would overthrow foreign rule, in this case, the Roman rule
- There was much talk, and many already believed that Jesus was the Messiah

24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."

- The Jewish leaders are frustrated because, in their minds, the Messiah would be a military leader
- They ask Jesus, Just tell us plainly if you are the Christ (the anointed, the messiah, the promised one, the deliverer)
- They didn't want the messiah who healed the broken-hearted, who healed the sick, who brought liberty to those who were captive from sin. They wanted deliverance from Rome
- Jesus didn't come to deliver from Rome. Jesus came to deliver us from sin, so that we may have eternal life

25 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. **26** But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

- Some may call this doubt, but this is unbelief, and there's a difference
- Many in the Gospels had doubt, but when Jesus spoke to them, called them, healed them, preached to them, or saw a miracle, they believed in Him
- We have all struggled with doubt at some point
- Doubt looks for answers, unbelief looks for excuses
 - Doubt says, I'd like to believe, I want to believe, I'm ready to believe, but there's this obstacle here, please remove it so I can believe (example: god, if you are real, let me feel you, touch me, speak to me, give me a dream)
- Unbelief is to be predisposed that no matter what happens, I will not believe.
- I have told you, Jesus has told them, he has preached, he has had debates with them, he has given the I AM statements, but they don't believe
- Jesus not only has told them, but the works that he has done give undeniable proof that He is the Messiah
- If you don't believe my words, believe my works
- But they will not believe their hearts are hardened
- Believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Believe what the Word of God says, who He is, what He can do, His promises, and how much He loves you.... Believe

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. **28** And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone 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 My Father's hand.

- Can you hear His voice? If we hear Him, should we be following Him?
- Some have been here every single service for the past year, reading the Word, doing better, getting closer, allowing God to work, little by little, trusting God with tithes, giving stuff up because they don't help: that's following Jesus
- But I love what Jesus says, "I give them eternal life."

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- Not by our work, not by our power, or holiness. Jesus gives us eternal life
 - We are poor in spirit, we can't do anything, but he is rich in spirit
- For those of us who are scared, maybe of failing, maybe of addiction, of depression, anxiety, that we won't make it, maybe that the devil will get the last word, “neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”
- We are in good hands
- We are in the arms in the hands of Jesus

30 I and My Father are one.”

- Jesus here says that they are of the same essence
- Some say that Jesus meant that the Father's purpose and Jesus' purpose were the same, and that's what He means
- Many say Jesus never said he was God,
- He said it many times, He is saying it right here

31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?”

33 The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”

- They confirm that Jesus is saying that He is God
- **He is not a man** making Himself God; he is God who made Himself man to save us from sin and condemnation **Phillipians 2:5** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **7** but [c]made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. **9** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, **11** and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

34 Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, “You are gods” ’? 35 If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), 36 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 reminds them of the **Psalms 82:6** I said, “You are gods, And all of you are children of the Most High. 7 But you shall die like men, And fall like one of the princes.”
 - This was referencing judges who would be judges in court cases
 - God calls them gods (Elohim), but would die like man, in other words, God was showing them how important it was for them to cast good judgment and justice, the way God would
 - So Jesus says the Word cannot be broken
 - Jesus does the works, preaches the Word, and they believe He is blaspheming, because they have predisposed themselves not to believe.

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37 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; **38** but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father *is* in Me, and I in Him.” **39** Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand.

40 And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed. **41** Then many came to Him and said, “John performed no sign, but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true.” **42** And many believed in Him there.

- Look at the first group of people who were teachers of the law (scripture)
- The first group didn't believe
- The second group believed they saw the signs, and they remembered the testimony of John's preaching
- Believe believe believe the Gospel
- The answer is Jesus, it has always been Jesus, it will never stop being Jesus