

John-23
“I And The Father Are One”
John 10:22-42 (NIV)

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a second and welcome our first time guests and those who are watching us online...

We're walking through the Gospel of John...If you're just joining us or you're new to the faith...

There are four eye witness testimonies about Jesus' life, death and resurrection...we call them “gospels” which means good news!

Each gospel has an overall theme...

The Gospel of Matthew...focuses on the idea that Jesus is King...He's the Messiah...the Son of God

The Gospel of Mark...focuses less on what Jesus said, but more about what Jesus did...Mark wants us to know that Jesus is the suffering Servant

The Gospel of Luke...focuses on the idea that Jesus is the Son of Man...He's fully human, He laughed, He cried, He knows what it means to live in this world, in these bodies...He identifies with us...He's the Son of Man

The Gospel of John...focuses on the idea that Jesus is God...He's divine...John starts off His Gospel saying...

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth-Jn 1:1,14 (NIV)

Jesus is God the Son...In Theology we would say that Jesus is the second Person of the Trinity...He's God in a bod...He's God in the flesh...

He says things that only God would say...He does things that only God can do...

John tells us that the reason he's writing this book is because He wants us all to believe in Jesus!

31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.-Jn 20:30–31 (NIV)

Only Jesus can save you, and all you have to do to be saved is simply, believe...

So far in the book of John...Many people have seen the miracles...they've heard Jesus' words, and they have believed in Him!

In chapter 7 Jesus went up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles...and during this time, Jesus is being confronted by the religious leaders...

They don't like Jesus, not only because of His claims, but because He keeps breaking their manmade rules...Through chapters 7, 8 & 9 we see this growing tension and Jesus isn't backing down...

He accuses them of being spiritually blind and tells them that they think they're close to God but they're actually far away from God!

Pastor Barbara walked us through the first half of John 10 last week...

Where Jesus is continuing His heated conversation with the religious leaders from chapter 9...

He's basically saying...You religious leaders think that you're good shepherds of God's people...but you're not good at all...

In fact, you're not even shepherds...you're fugazi's...you're false, you're phony, you're just hiredhands...theives and robbers...

Sucking the life out of people with your religious rules and hypocrisy...

He says I Am the Good Shepherd...I'm the real deal...I don't take life from the sheep like you do...

I lay My life down for them...You're on the devil's team...

His team does nothing but steal, kill and destroy...But I came to give My sheep abundant life!

Now although I'm paraphrasing that conversation, you understand that Jesus isn't de-escalating...

He's turning up the heat...He's speaking with divine authority...As we finish up John chapter ten we're going to see this conflict continue...

22 Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade Jn 10:22–23 (NIV)

Notice that it's now the Festival of Dedication...most Bible scholars believe that about two or three months go by between verses 21 and 22...

The Feast of Tabernacles is in the fall...Now John tells us that it's winter time...and it's the Festival of Dedication...

Now if you're thinking "I don't remember reading about "The Feast of Dedication" when we were going through the book of Leviticus in our Bible reading plan...

Well, that's because it's not there...In fact, it's a non-biblical feast that was added by the Jewish leaders sometime between the old and new testaments...

Some of you will remember this from our series in the Book of Daniel...because Daniel prophesied that it would happen...and history tells us that it did...

During that 400 years between the OT & the NT a Syrian ruler by the name of Antiochus Epiphanes conquered Jerusalem...

He puts an end to worshipping Yahweh...He outlaws the feasts and festivals...He even makes circumcision illegal...

He desecrates the Temple...He slaughters a pig on the altar and demands that people worship Zeus...He turns the Temple into a brothel...

This goes on for a few years until a priest by the name of Judas Maccabeus leads a revolt against Antiochus Epiphanes and is successful.

Jerusalem gains their independence, and rededicates the Temple back to God...

Legend says that when they were rededicating the Temple back to God...they only had enough oil to last one day...but God supernaturally made the oil last eight days...

The Festival of Dedication also known as The Festival of Lights became a 8 day celebration...

We call it Hanukkah today...

Jesus is at the Temple during the Hanukkah...It's winter time...it's cold...it's rainy...it's storming...

It's not just stormy outside...the hearts of the religious leaders are cold as ice too...and there's a storm brewing...

Jesus is walking...

John 10:24-30 (NIV)

People don't reject Jesus because of a lack of **CLARITY** but because of **UNBELIEF**

The Pharisees are celebrating Hanukkah...remembering their hero Judas Maccabeus helping to free them from captivity...

They're looking for The Messiah to be that kind of warrior...and they come at Jesus like...

"Are you the Messiah or what?" Come right out and say it...They want Jesus to say something so that they can build a case against Him...

I love what Jesus says...

"I did tell you, but you do not believe-Jn 10:25 (NIV)

Jesus is like I told you...

I've been telling you...and I've been showing you...You just refuse to believe it!

I told you that I came down from Heaven...

I told you that I am the Living Water...

I told you that I am the Bread of Life...

I told you that I am the Light of the World...

I told you that I only do what I see My Father doing...

I turned water into wine...

I healed that boy in Capernaum...

I healed an invalid who was in that condition for 38 years...

I fed 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish...

I walked on water...

Your issue isn't clarity...I've plainly shown you...It's unbelief!

It's the same thing today...

Especially in our culture...here in America...It's not that people haven't heard about Jesus...they've heard about Jesus...they just don't want to believe in Him!

Believing in Him means obeying Him...

Believing in Him means following Him...

Believing in Him means putting Him first...

It means playing by His rules not my rules...

Thumb War with Ezekiel

I literally told Ezekiel the rules of the game...He understood them...and then just refused to follow them...

Jesus tells the religious leaders...

26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.-Jn 10:26–27 (NIV)

Maybe you're here today, or you're watching online and you haven't trusted in Jesus, not because of a lack of evidence...But because you know that following Him means surrendering your life...

Maybe you're like, I'm going to do my own thing, live my own way, be my own person... If that's you...I'm glad you're here...

I want to clarify something...Just because you don't follow Jesus doesn't mean you're not somebody's sheep...

We're all sheep...

Jesus said you don't believe because you're not "His sheep"...This doesn't mean that you don't have a shepherd...it just means that your shepherd is a fugazi...

Your shepherd is the world...

Your shepherd is the culture...

Your shepherd is your own reasoning...

The bottom line is your shepherd is leading you further away from God...

I just want to be real with you...We're all sheep...we all follow...some of us have the Good Shepherd...Some of us have the hired hand...

If you're here today and Jesus is your Good Shepherd here's the benefits that come with following Him...

Jesus knows us!

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them-Jn 10:27 (NIV)

This speaks of relationship...We have a personal relationship with our Good Shepherd...You may feel like nobody knows your name...Jesus knows your name!

This speaks of fellowship...Jesus promises to never leave you or forsake you...You are never alone...

This speaks of intimacy...Jesus laid down His life for you, because He loves you...

Jesus knows us...

Jesus gives us life!

28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;-Jn 10:28 (NIV)

Eternal life doesn't start the day you take your last breath here on earth...Eternal life starts the day you accept Jesus as Lord and Savior!

Here and now, I experience supernatural peace even when everything else falls apart around me...

I experience supernatural joy even when life's circumstances are sad...

My Good Shepherd forgives me when I wander...Blesses Me even when I don't deserve it...He provides for Me...His Spirit empowers Me...

He assures me that even when I die...I won't perish...I won't suffer God's wrath...

Jesus gives us security!

*no one will snatch them out of my hand.29
My Father, who has given them to me, is
greater than all; no one can snatch them out
of my Father's hand.-Jn 10:28b-29. (NIV)*

We are secure in the Shepherds hands...He protects us, He provides for us...And nothing can take us away from Jesus! The hands that created everything are holding on to you!

Those are just some of the benefits of being Jesus' sheep!

Now unfortunately the opposite is true if Jesus isn't your shepherd...

For you...

Jesus doesn't know you...there is no relationship...no fellowship...no intimacy with God...

You don't have eternal life...This life is the best you get...and when you die you will live eternally separated from God...

That's not what God wants...

The good news is that you can still choose to surrender to Jesus...Don't tune out His voice!

What you **BELIEVE** about Jesus determines how you **RESPOND** to Him

John 10:30(NIV)

The religious leaders wanted Jesus to tell them plainly Who He is...well there you go!

30 I and the Father are one.”-Jn 10:30 (NIV)

All through the Bible, we see the idea that there is only One God...Everyday the Jews would recite the Shema...

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one-Dt 6:4 (NIV)

This is foundational...Bible 101...There's only One God...

Now here's Jesus saying I and the Father are one...

What is Jesus saying?

He's saying that both The Father and the Son are distinct Persons...The Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Father...

Jesus says "I" and "The Father" that's how many? That's two separate Persons...

But then He says that both The Father and The Son are one...That's one in being...

We talked about this when we talked about the Trinity...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...

Jesus doesn't mention the Holy Spirit in this text, but the concept is still the same...

We are human beings...but different people...Jesus is saying that He is equal to God in being...but separate in Person...

Now many people reject the divinity of Jesus...
All of the world religions...

Buddhists say he was enlightened
Muslims say that he was a prophet but lesser than Momhamad

Hindu's believe Jesus was one of many "gods"

What about the cults?

The JW's believe Jesus is the first created being...who is also Michael the Archangel...

The Mormons believe that Jesus is the polygamist half brother of Lucifer and became one of many gods...

Scientology says that Jesus is an implant forced upon a thetan about a million years ago...Pastor Mike what does that mean?

I have no idea...I don't do drugs

What you believe about Jesus determines how you will respond to Him...

How do the religious leaders respond to Jesus?

31 Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him. 32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" 33 "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."-Jn 10:31-33 (NIV)

They want to kill Him...They pick up stones and want to kill Jesus because He just claimed to be God!

They understood exactly what Jesus was saying...and they didn't like it!

What you believe about Jesus will determine how you respond to Jesus...

How do you respond to Jesus? Do you throw rocks or do you throw up your hands in surrender?

Do you pick up stones or do you pick up your cross? Do you flee from Him, or do you follow Him?

Do you reject Him or receive Him? Is He everything to you? Your Lord, your Savior, your all in all, or is He nothing to you?

Just a made up story...or maybe just another person who lived in history...no different than Lincoln, or Ghandi?

What you believe about Him...will determine how you react to Him...

So you can picture this...everyone's got a stone in their hands...and then Jesus says something that seems strange...

34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are "gods" '? **35 If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be set aside—****36 what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?** **37 Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father.**

38 But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.” 39 Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp-Jn 10:34–39 (NIV)

Jesus answers them...I love that He defends what He's saying from the Word...He brings them to Psalm 82...

In Psalm 82, God refers to human judges as “gods”...Think about being in a court in front of a judge...that judge has power over you...their decisions can affect your future...

They're in control...so in that sense the judge has godlike power...

I say that because there are some who take this scripture and try to prove that we are all divine...that we are all little “gods”

There are others who take this scripture and try to saying that He is God..but He was actually saying He's just a man...a "son of God"...Both are wrong...

In fact in Psalm 82...God is actually calling these judges out because they were corrupt...they weren't upholding justice, they were abusing their power...

God rebukes them and tells them that they will die under His judgment, unless they repent and do what is right...

Sidenote...

Anyone who is in a position of authority at home, at work, in school, in the church, in public office and they do not honor God with their power...

They will one day stand before God and give an account for their wrong doing!

So Jesus is arguing from the lesser to the greater...If the word "gods" can be used of people who were no more than judges...how much MORE could it be used of One Who is greater?

One that the Father has set apart as His very own Son and sent Him into the world...One Who is the Word become flesh...

They have nothing to say to Him...They can't argue against the Scripture...They can't set it aside...Because it's the Word of God!

This is why we live by, build our lives upon, the Word of God...This is why I go to the word for my answers to what is going on in the world...

I never go to the world to get my answers to what's going on in the word!

Jesus claimed to be One with the Father...

The religious leaders didn't believe Him and rejected Him...what about you?

***40 Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. There he stayed,
-Jn 10:40 (NIV)***

We need to **PREPARE** ourselves for the **BATTLES** ahead

Our chapter ends with Jesus walking away from the argument...

Not because He was afraid of these religious leaders...but because He knew that His greatest battles were coming...

He needed to get away and get ready because in the next couple of months the cross was waiting for Him...

So He doesn't stay in Jerusalem where the religious leaders are looking to debate His theology...twist His words...and find a way to kill Him...

He doesn't want to go back to Galilee where everyone wants a miracle...they want a handout...but they don't want to follow Him...

He goes across the Jordan...He goes on a retreat...

Jesus knew what was coming around the corner for Him...

And He chose to retreat and spend time in prayer with the Father in fellowship with His disciples...resting...strengthening Himself for the battle that was coming...

Hey if Jesus had to do this...how much more do we?

Unlike Jesus, we have no idea what tomorrow holds...what battles we're going to face...

We need time to strengthen ourselves in the Lord...We need to be men and women of prayer...

We need to be in community together...

Worshiping together...

Encouraging one another...

Loving one another...

Looking out for one another...

Following our Good Shepherd through all of the battles and blessings of this life...

Pointing others to Jesus...

You have no idea how living your life following the Shepherd will speak to those who are far from God...

**41 and many people came to him. (Jesus)
They said, “Though John never performed a
sign, all that John said about this man was
true.” 42 And in that place many believed in
Jesus.-Jn 10:41-41 (NIV)**

God still uses us to point others to Jesus...

As we close today, I see that there are three types of people in chapter ten...

Those who are like the religious leaders...Who for whatever reason will not believe...and continue to reject Him...

Those who are open to Jesus but have doubts...

These are the people who heard what Jesus said, and saw that He healed the man born blind and said...there's more to this guy...

Those who lived across the Jordan...

They heard the testimony and believed in Jesus for themselves...

Every person had to make a choice...

And so do we...

As we close today, I'm wondering if there's anyone here or online who have heard Jesus calling, but have not started following Him...

He wants to be Your Good Shepherd...all you have to do is come to Him. If you're here I want to invite you to repent of your sins and come to Jesus...

Maybe you're here or you're online and you struggle with the idea of the assurance we have in Jesus...Jesus is bigger than your fears and your failures...He's never going to give up on you...and no one can snatch you out of His hand!

If you're here I want to invite you to come down for prayer...

Maybe you're here or you're watching online and you need boldness to share your faith...to live your life following the Good Shepherd...

You don't need to go to Bible School to do that...The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you! He wants to give you the power to live your life for God!

If you're here, I want to invite you to come up for prayer...

I want to pray for you that the Holy Spirit would give you power to be like John the Baptist...

To point others to Jesus...

To speak the truth with love...

And to trust God with the outcome...

What's the Holy Spirit Saying to You?

Altar Time

