

## Sunday April 21, 2024 | John 10:22-29

As we study the rest of John 10 the setting is going to change but the themes Jesus has been using continue. He has presented Himself as the door (v. 7, 9). He is the only access to saved. Through Him and Him alone we can have a relationship with God and have abundant life. Then He presented Himself as the good shepherd (v. 11, 14). He loves us to the point He is willing to lay down His life so that we as sheep can live. This sacrifice gives life to both the sheep of the fold, the Jews, and the other sheep, the gentiles. Jesus has told us that salvation is found only in Him because He laid His life down, now He is going to teach how secure we can be in Him.

### John 10:22-42 ESV

- (22) At that time the **Feast of Dedication** took place at Jerusalem. **It was winter**,  
 (23) and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon.  
 (24) So the Jews gathered around Him and said to Him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."  
 (25) Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name bear witness about Me,  
 (26) but you do not believe because you are not among My sheep.  
 (27) My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.  
 (28) I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will 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 the Father's hand.  
 (30) I and the Father are one."

Jesus is in Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication; we better know it as Hannukah. It takes place during winter time and remembers when the temple was rededicated. It was a feast that was invented by the Jews, there are no instructions for it in the Old Testament. In fact, the event it is remembering takes place after the Old Testament was fully written. In 167 BC **Antiochus Epiphanes** desecrated the temple by sacrificing a pig to Zeus. This infuriated the Jews and led to their revolt. **Judas Maccabaeus** (Nicknamed the Hammer) led the Jews with guerilla warfare and they were able to retake the temple in 164 BC. The temple had to be **rededicated** so that it could be used to worship the true God. Relighting the menorah in the holy place was part of this rededication. Hannukah, or the Feast of Dedication, remembers this moment.

This feast celebrated the freedom the Jews experienced by the political leader **Judas Maccabaeus**. In many ways the Jews were looking for this kind of leader again. Instead of accepting the Word become flesh, God in their midst. They wanted another political leader to gain their independence from Rome.

**John 10:24 ESV**

(24) So **the Jews gathered** around Him and said to Him, **“How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.”**

As they remembered this military victory the Jews gathered around Jesus. This word means to **encircle, surround, close in on**. This crowd was hostile and was demanding answers. They literally ask how long Jesus will **raise us up**, meaning they were uncertain, provoked, and in suspense over who He was. They were celebrating the last time Israel had independence under **Judas Maccabaeus** and they wanted to know was He the Christ. Was He the great King and political leader to liberate Israel?

**John 10:25-27 ESV**

(25) Jesus answered them, **“I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name **bear witness about Me**,**

(26) but you do not believe **because you are not among My sheep.**

(27) My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and **they follow Me.**

They were not interested in a savior who would pay for sin. **They were not looking for a good shepherd but the hammer.** Jesus had presented plenty of truth and miracles to show who He was. The woman at the well understood He was the Christ. His disciples came to understand it as well.

**Matthew 16:13-17 ESV**

(15) He said to them, **“But who do you say that I am?”**

(16) Simon Peter replied, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**

(17) And Jesus answered him, **“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! **For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.****

Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ was not revealed to him by flesh and blood. The truth about Jesus **is spiritually understood**. The Jews saw the same miracles and heard the same teaching and they rejected Him. **They were not of His sheep**. Peter, the woman at the well, the blind man, any believer here today believed in Him as the Christ. **His sheep hear His voice**. This is a simple yet profound truth, His sheep will be saved and accept Him, those who are not His sheep reject. **Do not try to split this truth apart and figure out what comes first**. We must respond to the gospel, and believe in Jesus. If we believe then we are His sheep. It is a true miracle how God can work this out. **We never are called to wonder in the Word if we are His sheep or not**, if we are elect or not. His sheep believe it is that simple and incredibly secure.

**John 10:28 ESV**

(28) **I give them eternal life**, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

Eternal life is a gift from Jesus. It is not something that is earned or warranted. It is not a due from work. It is a gift. So many gospel presentations today do not present salvation, eternal life, as a gift. They will call it a gift, then give you the list of things you need to do to prove you really accepted it. Belief and faith are such simple concepts in scripture even being compared to a look. Eternal life is a gift.

#### **Romans 4:1-5 ESV**

- (1) What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather **according to the flesh?**
- (2) For if Abraham was justified by works, **he has something to boast about**, but not before God.
- (3) For what does the Scripture say? **“Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”**
- (4) Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift **but as his due.**
- (5) And to the one who does not work but **believes in Him** who justifies the ungodly, **his faith is counted as righteousness,**

Works and belief are counter to each other. **If we work for our salvation then it is no longer a gift.** We would have something to boast about, something we contributed. God asks for us to trust that He will give us eternal life. That He is willing to justify us and give us Jesus' righteousness because of Jesus' death burial and resurrection. Our faith is counted as righteousness. Not our service, church membership, our baptism, our perseverance, our dedication etc, only our faith.

#### **Romans 5:1-2 ESV**

- (1) Therefore, **since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- (2) **Through Him** we have also obtained access **by faith** into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Faith has no merit by itself. It is useless. The value of faith comes from the object it is in. Faith is not a work. It is a trust in the one way to be saved Jesus, He is the door. It is through Him, He took our sin and we are justified, declared righteous. We have access to this incredible grace by faith. It is all about Jesus and what He accomplished. We just trust in Him. When we understand salvation is a gift and based on Jesus it is secure.

#### **John 10:28-29 ESV**

- (28) I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and **no one will 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 the Father's hand.**

Jesus promises that no one is able to snatch a believer out of His hand. If that wasn't enough assurance He doubles down and promises that no one is able to snatch a believer out of God the Father's hand. As a believer your salvation is secure between the grasp of Jesus' hand with God the Father's hand. This clearly teaches eternal security.

**Your salvation is secure because of God not yourself.**

Many agree with this on some level but then try to add exceptions of what could undue someone's salvation. It leads to so much confusion. One denomination's official stance is that "Continuing sinful practices will adversely affect the believer's faith, and, if they are not repented of, **will finally destroy faith.**" Meaning you can lose your salvation if you keep sinning. Then in the next paragraph the same denomination says "Thus believers are assured of the provision of God to strengthen and forgive them **as they struggle with temptation and sin, never needing to doubt their salvation**, which is based upon the righteousness of Christ accepted by faith."

So you should be assured in your salvation because it is based on Jesus, but you can sin your way out of it?!? **This is so confusing.** Unfortunately it is even more popular to just say the person didn't lose their salvation **but they were never saved in the first place.** Look at the following examples of believers and all the ways they tried to lose their salvation.

#### **Jonah ran away from God in rebellion**

**Jonah 1:3 ESV**

(3) But Jonah rose **to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.** He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, **away from the presence of the LORD.**

#### **The prodigal pursued sin and loose living**

**Luke 15:13 NAS95**

(13) "And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and **there he squandered his estate with loose living.**

#### **Hymenaeus shipwrecked His faith with false doctrines**

**1 Timothy 1:18-20 ESV**

(18) This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

(19) holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, **some have made shipwreck of their faith,**

(20) among whom are **Hymenaeus** and Alexander, **whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.**

**This man in 1 Corinthians has no eternal fruit**

**1 Corinthians 3:15 ESV**

(15) If anyone's work is **burned up**, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

**Believers can fall so far they forget they were saved in the first place**

**2 Peter 1:9 ESV**

(9) For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that **he was cleansed from his former sins**.

**Believers can fall from the plane of grace and submit again to the law**

**Galatians 5:1-4 ESV**

(1) For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (2) Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, **Christ will be of no advantage to you**. (3) I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. (4) **You are severed from Christ**, you who would be justified by the law; **you have fallen away from grace**.

**Peter denied Jesus and even evoked a curse to deny Him**

**Matthew 26:74 ESV**

(74) Then **he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear**, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed.

And yet in each of these cases God the Father and God the Son had these believers firmly secure between their two hands. If we could undue, mess up, loose, fail in our salvation we would. We just read lots of examples of believers trying. In each of these cases there are consequences and **these actions cost these believers so much**. We need to let the Word be clear in its promises of what secures our salvation.

**Romans 8:38-39 ESV**

(38) For I am sure that **neither death nor life**, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,  
 (39) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Nothing in all of creation can separate you from the love of Jesus. Do you realize that includes yourself. Jesus loves for us is that secure. You can be assured of your salvation because of who Jesus is and what He has promised. **Your assurance is not based on emotions, a religious experience, or the authority of a church it is based on the truth of Jesus in His word**. He will not lose a single sheep, if you believe in Him, if you trust Him you are His sheep, guaranteed.

### John 10:28-29 Wuest Expanded New Testament

(28) I give to them life eternal. **And they shall positively not perish, never.** And no one will snatch them by force out of My hand.

(29) My Father who gave them **to Me as a permanent gift** is greater than all. And no one is able to be snatching them by force out of the hand of My Father.

Many of us struggle to know if we are saved or not. We worry about loosing our salvation. Sometimes this doubt comes because we are not in fellowship and we need to repent. For others it is because of bad teaching we have received. Others it is a personality bent that causes them to over think. We are secure as sheep because of who the shepherd is. **Being secure in salvation is not a license to sin but it gives us the foundation and security to walk with Him.** It causes our focus to be on Him and not on ourselves.

### Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

(1) Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,**

(2) **looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,** who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

So many answers to how we can know we are saved **look to ourselves.** We are not called to look to ourselves but to Jesus. He is the **founder, originator, leader** in our faith and He is the **perfecter** of it. As we are looking to Him, we are able to lay aside the weight that slows us down in our walk. These are things that are not outright sin but they are not helpful in growing closer to Jesus. We also are able to lay aside the sin that clings so close. This is the problem right, we are all too aware of how much sin clings closely to us. We have been called to **“to direct one’s attention without distraction, fix one’s eyes”** on Jesus. Our shepherd and the security He offers helps us grow.

### Psalms 37:23-28 NAS95

(23) The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

(24) **When he falls,** he will not be hurled headlong, **Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.**

(25) I have been young and now I am old, Yet **I have not seen the righteous forsaken** Or his descendants begging bread.

(26) All day long he is gracious and lends, And his descendants are a blessing.

(27) Depart from evil and do good, So you will abide forever.

(28) **For the LORD loves justice And does not forsake His godly ones; They are preserved forever,** But the descendants of the wicked will be cut off.