



**Symptoms of Spiritual Blindness
Jesus Really Is God
We Aren't
John 10:22-42**

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Today we are going to have shown to us, very clearly, what some of the major symptoms of spiritual blindness looks like.

John will not spend a lot of time setting up the scene for us and he will move right to very first symptom we can see.

Ignoring everything you have been told or learned about Jesus Christ and demanding more proof. I wonder if the following earned an eyeroll from Jesus.



John 10:22–24

“At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple area, in the portico of Solomon. The Jews then surrounded Him and began saying to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.”” (NASB 2020)

I mean. Really? Let’s just ignore everything that happened two months ago and start again from zero. First a little on the background of why Jesus is back in Jerusalem.

For the past several Sundays, we have been camping in the Jewish camping festival known as the Feast of Tabernacles. At this point in the ministry of Jesus, the last day of the Feast would have been Wednesday the 29th of September, the 8th day Sabbath would have been on Thursday, the 30th of September. Now, we move forward two months to the Feast of Dedication which would have begun that year on December 1st at a feast that was not found in the Torah but with Jesus in attendance, obviously one that is important to Him.

1 Maccabees, an apocryphal book, has the history of the event.

1 Maccabees 4:52–59

“Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, which is the month of Chislev, in the one hundred forty-eighth year, they rose and offered sacrifice, as the law directs, on the new altar of burnt offering that they had built. At the very season and on the very day that the nations had profaned it, it was dedicated with songs and harps and lutes and cymbals. All the people fell on their faces and worshiped and blessed heaven, who had prospered them. So they celebrated the dedication of the altar for eight days and joyfully offered burnt offerings; they offered a sacrifice of well-being and a thanksgiving offering. They decorated the front of the temple with golden crowns and small shields; they restored the gates and the chambers for the priests and fitted them with doors. There was very great joy among the people, and the disgrace brought by the nations was removed. Then Judas and his brothers and all the assembly of Israel determined that every year at that season the days of dedication of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth day of the month of Chislev.” (NRSVue)

This feast was instituted by “Judas Maccabæus in 164 B.C., when the Temple, which had been desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes, was once more purified, and re-dedicated to the Service of Jehovah. Accordingly, it was designated as ‘the Dedication of the Altar.’” We also refer to it as Chanukkah. (Edersheim 1896, 226)

Antiochus Epiphanes took Jerusalem and the Temple in 167 BC. “He slew forty thousand inhabitants, and sold forty thousand more as slaves. In addition to this, he sacrificed a sow on the altar of burnt-offerings, and a broth being made of this, he sprinkled it all over the temple. The city and temple were recovered three years afterward by Judas Maccabæus, and the temple was purified with great pomp and solemnity.” (Barnes 1884-1885, 291)

This is a Festival celebrating a national deliverance.

It is ironic that the Messiah, the one who came to deliver the nation Himself, will Himself face rejection at a festival celebrating a national deliverance.

It is also ironic that what was a miracle of light for a week when there was a little oil, reflecting the work of the Holy Spirit, has been flipped. Now the light of the world, as previously announced to everyone, is standing in front of them and they act like nothing ever happened.



John tells us the location info too. We are at the Temple again, in the Temple area proper. Just around the corner from the previous miracles and announcements.

On the southern end of the massive outer court of the temple lay the royal portico; the eastern colonnade was called Solomon's Portico. People believed that the eastern colonnade's pre-Herodian masonry derived from the time of Solomon, hence the title "Solomon's porch" (Josephus War 5.184–185; Ant. 15.397–400; 20.221). (Keener 2012, 823)

This would be a natural draw to keep out of the cold. That might be why Jesus is walking there, but He is intercepted while still walking.

The Greek word translated as winter, χειμῶν, can mean "stormy weather, bad weather, storm" as well as "the season of bad weather, winter." (Arndt, et al. 2000, 1082)

Either way, Jesus is sticking closer to the buildings than normally due to the weather. This is probably why He is not yet in the courtyard.

It is also possible their intel has gotten better, and He has barely even come into the Temple proper. Very possible if He came in the eastern gate.

First, they encircle Him so He can't get away. As you witness to others, be ready for this if they have friends or even if they are alone. The unbeliever feels unnerved by what it is you have been telling them and they are seeking a position of power by either entering into your personal space or having others come up behind you without you being totally aware of it. This means what you have been saying is working and the enemy is using some normal means to allow them to reassert the lead in the conversation.

Trying to do this with Jesus though, is simply futility on display.

The religious leadership now believes they have the advantage and for once should be in control of the narrative. So, they ask a question they have asked before, who are you? (John 1:19, 1:22, 8:25)

They had previously exposed their ignorance when questioning John the Baptist. John's response and he clearly told them this, was he was the voice of Isaiah 40:3.

The very next day Jesus returned from His 40 days in the wilderness and John again identified who He is.

Then there was the healing of the lame man followed by the blind man from birth. Both right there at the Temple.

Both times Jesus clearly identified His deity, that He is Messiah, for which they wanted to kill Him. And yet now they demand He give them a show? The Greek that is used by them with Jesus is a command. It is in the imperative. They want a one-time definitive statement. Forget all of the "I am" statements with the attesting miracles.

These gentlemen honestly believe they can command God to preform for them on demand. This is behavior you will see from time to time when sharing with an unbeliever.

There really does come a time when you are sharing Christ with others, where the conversation is similar. That is usually a sign that this is the last conversation. They are either going to come to Christ, or it is time to move on. Let the Holy Spirit guide you on that.



There are those also, who want to argue their narrow theological point and they want you to move to their very narrow and strange interpretation of scripture. They will also act the same. Time to end the discussion. Arguing with others about fine theological points is, well, pointless.

It's like trying to put makeup on a pig. It's upsetting to those who watch. It takes too much of your time and it irritates the pig. They do not care if they look good, even for show.

By the way, if you ever lead a small group, they will show up and state for all the world to hear, their aberrant view of whatever scripture or doctrine you are talking about. They want to control the conversation away from what the Lord would have you to do.

Paul warned about folks, believers on a mission, who want to hammer their theological point to you.

1 Timothy 1:3–4

“As I urged you when I was leaving for Macedonia, stay on in Ephesus to instruct certain people not to spread false teachings, nor to occupy themselves with myths and interminable genealogies. Such things promote useless speculations rather than God’s redemptive plan that operates by faith.” (NET 2nd ed.)

I would characterize some of the conversations I have had in the past with believers on a mission as this. We must learn when to walk away.

Please do not use it as an opportunity to hand them off to me. I have no problem talking with anyone but there is a time where I will walk away from the conversation too.

Let me give you an example of useless speculation but a topic that way too many can get involved in. It is the ridiculous question. There are such profound questions as, “How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?” Another question that came up occasionally was, “Can God create a rock so big that He can’t pick it up?”...The fault in this question is that it doesn’t have to do with God’s power, but with God’s character. And the exercise of God’s power is always governed by the constraints of His character. (Jeremiah 2004, 61)

What is happening here though is ironic. The irony will be further enhanced since this is a celebration of the Maccabean heroes for the works they did, but they are ignoring the works of Jesus. This feast has political overtones as well since it arose from a supposed triumph of the Hellenist Jews; apostates who sided with Antiochus Epiphanes but at the end of the day, the Lord delivered His people through the Maccabees. The apostate Jews had accepted a type of the antichrist and followed him rather than YAHWEH. This will be repeated later just prior to the beginning of the Tribulation when Israel signs a 7-year peace deal with the Beast.

Last time He was in the Temple, Jesus made it clear with several “I am” statements as well as a miracle only the Messiah could do, in fact it was prima facie evidence of the Messiah being in the house. The healing of a man born blind.

By the way, the line of healed lepers at the Temple has not grown shorter.

These are not stupid people Jesus is talking to. Most of the religious establishment has memorized the entire Torah and many, the entire Old Testament. They are professional law keepers.

They are also consummate politicians who know how to turn a phrase so that there is no right answer for the one being questioned. They are masters of the redirect and, like all politicians, know how to effectively lie. Yes, these politicians are also religious professionals in the Temple and yes, we deal with this these days in the church. A simple review of church history will reveal that.



But they bring up a point we need to remember.

We must remember this as we go about telling others about Jesus. Just because the same question gets asked time and time again does not mean the one asking is dumb. Remember, this is spiritual warfare and there are others in the unseen realm working overtime to blind and confuse. Sometimes the question may be genuine, and it also may be the 10th time it has been asked. Satan is in the business of making those in his sphere of influence forget things like the last answer you gave.

They are now telling Jesus that He has been playing coy with who He is. They act like they have been kept in suspense. "When Jesus keeps his opponents "in suspense" (10:24, according to some translations), he is "withholding" or (literally) "taking his life" or "soul" from them." (Keener 2012, 824)

They want a clear statement made per "their requirements" so they can accuse Him and kill Him for blasphemy. That is the goal. Jesus knows it. The aggressive nature of the encirclement betrays their intent.

When confronting a "religious professional," that same person who showed up in your small group, this is something we can learn from Jesus about. The narrative that they want to have with you is one they want to have on their terms. They will act coy, even almost engaging to the point of making you feel sorry for them and their lack of understanding. But that is exactly where they want to take you so they can then take complete control of the group.

A quick lesson on small groups, don't let them take over. Tactics can run from a redirect question like asking them why they personally feel like they can take over the class to asking them to leave and do so right now. Then there is what Jesus does.

For those who engage in this practice today, it is usually meant to ridicule and make fun of. Leading questions are the rule. Why won't you talk to me about this topic? Why can't you agree with me on this seemingly reasonable idea? Don't you agree that love is love? And on and on.

Jesus responds to them and hits them between the eyes with truth.

John 10:25–30

"Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 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. I and the Father are one."" (NASB 2020)

Or, in other words, I really am sorry you have that view. It makes me wonder why you would even think we would entertain a discussion on this topic here at Calvary. Is there something about what we teach here that makes you want to change us? I asked that of someone deep into the Hebrew Roots Movement and was told "because I do not agree with your view of scripture." No problem, now the truth is out. They were invited to seek a fellowship that would be like minded, oh and they left.

Jesus is the good shepherd. He is talking to the afflicted, or remnant of the flock. Not, per Zechariah 11, the flock dedicated to destruction.

The religious leadership has already crossed that bridge much earlier when they attributed the works of the Holy Spirit to Satan (Matthew 12:21-45). They have already self-identified as members in good standing of Zechariah's doomed flock. So, when Jesus tells them they don't believe, they don't. They are incapable of doing so. Some of them have already crossed the bridge of no return that Jesus referred to



as the unpardonable sin. Specifically, they had attributed the casting out of demons by Jesus to demons (Matthew 12:32).

For some of them, God no longer had anything to say to them. The Lord would allow them to have their way, an eternity without Him.

By the way, if you feel like you have committed the unpardonable sin and are unredeemable, you haven't. You're still wanting to know if God can forgive you and the answer is YES.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

The problem for these religious professionals, they are not part of the flock. They had an opportunity and have rejected it due to their pride. They do not believe in the good shepherd. They are currently lost and for some of them, it has become permanent.

John 10:26–28

“But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.” (NASB 2020)

Jesus has clearly stated the case multiple times. He did not speak in secret; He was out in the open and they heard Him. The works that He has done, the healing of the paralytic, the healing of the man born blind, they both scream out Jesus is the Messiah. The other works they have seen, the never-ending stream of healed lepers showing up for the cleansed ceremony would also attest to that.

These works, he reminds them, are in his Father’s “name,” that is, they are the Father’s own works. With this, he takes them back to where their unbelief began, when he said, “My Father is working even until now, and I am working” (5:17), and they “kept seeking all the more to kill him, because he ... was claiming God as his own Father, making himself equal to God” (5:18). This, and not the title “Christ,” he reminds them, is the real issue. Nor is it purely a question of who Jesus is, for, as he says, “The works that I do” are done in “my Father’s name.” Despite the emphatic “I,” they are the Father’s works and not his own. (Michaels 2010, 597-598)



They have chosen not to believe. If they believe, then they would understand because then they would know who He is. We must remember this as we share Christ with others. There are those who will, no matter the evidence presented, will not believe. Leave that with the Holy Spirit as we have no idea what kind of work, He will do to reach that person.

Antony Flew was a well-known atheist who in 2007, changed his mind and authored the book, *There Is A God*. He said the following about his life before: "For over fifty years I have not simply denied the existence of God, but also the existence of an afterlife." (Flew and Vargeseh 2007, 2)

But he was not a closed book apparently. He kept looking and corresponded with believers called to do so. This resulted in a change of mind.

"But since the early 1980s, I had begun to reconsider. I confessed at that point that atheists have to be embarrassed by the contemporary cosmological consensus, for it seemed that the cosmologists were providing a scientific proof of what St. Thomas Aquinas contended could not be proved philosophically; namely, that the universe had a beginning." (Flew and Vargeseh 2007, 135)

The remnant, those who believe in Jesus, they get it. The rest do not. The rest are who Zechariah identifies as the flock dedicated to destruction.

Here in John 10:27 & 28 is something we need to never forget. Jesus provides the promises of God for those who are part of His flock, that would be you and me if we have accepted His generous gift of eternal life.

He is answering the unasked question, "How do we know we are His sheep?"

John 10:27–29

"My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 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." (NASB 2020)

We listen to His voice – We just can't get enough of the Word.

He knows us – We have a relationship with Jesus because we spend time with Him everyday – Prayer.

We follow Him – we hear His voice, we want to know Him more, so we follow Him and go where He goes. He leads us. We are literally answering the challenge, everyday, "Come and see." (John 1:46)

Because we are His, He has given us eternal life. In the Greek, give is in the present active indicative. This means we have been given eternal life as a present possession and He never stops giving us eternal life. Because we are His, He gives us and never stops giving us eternal life. It is a present possession of every believer.

Because of that – we will never perish. There will never be a time when we are in purgatory. There is no such place by the way. We are either here on earth, or with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:6–9 "So we are always full of courage. We know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord's home. For our life is a matter of faith, not of sight. We are full of courage and would much prefer to leave our home in the body and be at home with the Lord. More than anything else, however, we want to please him, whether in our home here or there." (GNB)



And the really good news – “no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

If you haven't underlined this in your Bible, you should. This verse tells us we are eternally secure in Christ. “Eternal security is that work of God which guarantees that the gift of salvation, once received, is possessed forever and cannot be lost. Since security rests on God's guarantee, its truthfulness does not rest on my feelings or experiences. Sometimes the teaching of eternal security is called the doctrine of preservation, which means that God preserves the believer in his salvation.” (Ryrie 1997, 125)

Romans 8:33–39

“Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 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.” (ESV)

If this isn't enough, Jesus then adds to this.

John 10:29–30

“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. I and the Father are one.” (NASB 2020)

You and I are the Father's love gift to His Son.

Nothing can take us out of Jesus' hand, why, because nothing can take us out of God's hand. We were given to Jesus by the Father. We cannot take ourselves away from Christ and nothing else can either.

After hitting these religious professionals with the truth, Jesus ends with exactly what the religious establishment asked for. A definitive statement of who He is. And they get it.

John 10:30

“I and the Father are one.” (NASB 2020)

This crisp statement is the climax of Christ's claims concerning the relation between the Father and himself (the Son). They stir the Pharisees to uncontrollable anger. (Robertson 1933, Jn 10:30)

John's gospel is all about showing that Jesus Christ is God. His intent from the very first verse is that simple truth.

Jesus is not playing coy, He is not playing word games, He is speaking in terms that the unbelieving religious professionals fully understand. Their reaction reveals their heart, they are not believers.

This is one of the truly great statements in Scripture on the deity of Christ: “I and the Father are one.” It is clearly a christological high point, restating the other clear statements of 1:1 (“the Word was God”) and 18 (“the one and only Son, who is himself God”). Yet there is also debate, for the “one” is neuter (hen) rather than masculine, and most see it as teaching a functional unity of purpose rather than an ontological union of person. It could then be translated, “I and the Father have one purpose.” (Osborne 2018)



John 10:31–33

“The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. Jesus replied to them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?” The Jews answered Him, “We are not stoning You for a good work, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.”” (NASB 2020)

The religious leadership has obtained what they wanted, a clear definitive statement of divinity by Jesus Christ, and they want to kill Him for it. They begin looking for loose stones to throw at Him.

Now they remember why they wanted to kill Him in the first place. He has made several “I am” statements and now He has given them exactly what they wanted, THE definitive statement.

Jesus though goes right back to the works that He has done. Now we discover that the works mean nothing to these men who are legalists and intent on preserving the status quo at all costs. Yes, they have lied.

All He has done is what the Father wants. He has done the father’s work.

They are in a fury; Jesus though continues to calmly engage with them.

He is our example. When we confront someone with Jesus and they respond emotionally, and some will, we must remain calm allowing ourselves to be more like Him. Here they want to kill Him, and Jesus is still trying to bring some of them over to belief.

They believe He has made Himself out to be God, reality is, no, HE IS GOD. And now He makes it clear, just like they wanted.

John 10:34–39

“Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law: ‘I SAID, YOU ARE GODS’? If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be nullified), are you saying of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.” Therefore they were seeking again to arrest Him, and He eluded their grasp.” (NASB 2020)

Psalms 82:1–2

“God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah” (ESV)

The context of Psalm 82 is judgement. God is seated in command of the divine council and is in the midst of the elohim, the gods. Elohim is a term used in the Hebrew text to denote spirit beings. Jesus is taking a term from the Hebrew, elohim, and using that. For a Jew, an elohim is a spirit being. The biblical writers refer to a half-dozen different entities with the word elohim. By any religious accounting, the attributes of those entities are not equal. (Heiser 2015, 30)

We struggle with what is being said here because we do not have the same worldview as the folks that Jesus is talking to. We have removed, for the most part, much of the supernatural from the Bible and as a result have missed some really important things due to that. I have covered this topic in the past and it is in our teaching online as 26 separate messages on the Unseen Realm. Jesus quotes from Psalm 82:6



Psalm 82:6–8

“I said, “You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince.” Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!” (ESV)

Jesus reminds his detractors that there are other non-human divine beings (אלהים) in their Scriptures; they are also sons of God (the Most High.) This is consistent with the fact that the phrase “sons of God” is used in the Hebrew Bible only of non-human divine beings...

By linking his statements (10:30, 38) to Psalm 82, Jesus is claiming his own divinity—he can call himself the son of God based on Psalm 82, where other divine beings do the same thing.

The above is, by implication, claiming membership in the divine council.

John 10:30 and 10:38, however, go even further—when Jesus says that the Father is in him, and he is in the Father, and he and the Father are one, he is connecting himself to the council co-regency. In effect, he equates himself as co-regent to the lord of the council, Yahweh himself. The blasphemy charge now makes good sense. (Heiser, Jesus' Quotation of Psalm 82:6 in John 10:34: A Different View of John's Theological Strategy 2012)

In other words, what Jesus has done is doubled down that He and the Father are one. He is intentionally attacking the assumption He is only human by making the point that He is more than human. He used Psalm 82 to identify that is has come from the unseen realm, is not only a member of the divine council but is the one who takes the scroll from the hand of the Father in Revelation 4 and the one who is presented to the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7:13-14. He is co-regent of the council with YAHWEH. Jesus is not only divine, but He is also distinct from the other members of the council, as is YAHWEH. He is God.

John 10:40–42

“And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He stayed there. Many came to Him and were saying, “While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true.” And many believed in Him there.” (NASB 2020)

What Jesus has just done is proclaim, clearly to the religious establishment that He is “God the only Son” as we read of in John 1:18.

He is unique, one of a kind. The Greek word used is monogenes.

The expression indicates Jesus' unique personality, relation to the Father, and mission. According to John 1:14, 18, the Logos is the “Only One” from the Father and therefore in his nature is the only revealer of the Father. (Balz and Schneider 1990-, 440)

The religious leaders chased Him away by trying to arrest and kill the one who came to deliver them. He also came to deliver you and me.

Have you chased Him away too.

ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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