

The Truth That Divides

John 10:19-42

Through his words and actions, Jesus presented his credentials as the Son of God. *Each one of us must make a decision about what we will believe about Jesus Christ.* We must either believe he is who he claims to be or we do not believe. We cannot remain neutral. Indecision is a decision.

John 9 – Jesus healed a man who was blind from birth

John 10:1-18 – Jesus claimed to be the door and the Good Shepherd

Jesus' claims resulted in some believing and others disbelieving (19-21)

Jesus' claim to be the Shepherd and his claim that he would die for the sheep caused division among the Jewish people. Some thought he was demon possessed and insane. Others thought he was sane and sober.

The Confrontation at the Feast of Dedication (22-42)

These events take place about two months after verses 1-19. This is Jesus' last public teaching before his triumphal entry. It is the climax of Jesus' public ministry.

Jesus presents himself as the Messiah (22-30) and the Son of God (31-39). It is Jesus' last effort to get people to believe who he is. This results in a climax of hostility against him.

The final few verses are transitional (40-42) as Jesus withdraws from Jerusalem and many believed on him.

Jesus claims to be the Messiah (22-30)

The Feast of Dedication (22) is today known as Hannukah. Rather than being an Old Testament feast, it was started to commemorate the purification and rededication of the temple in 165 B. C. In 168 B. C., the Syrian General Antiochus Epiphanes profaned the temple by erecting a statue to Zeus in the temple and sacrificing a pig on the altar. Judas Maccabeus led a guerilla revolt that defeated the Syrians three years later and liberated the Jews.

Because it is winter, Jesus would teach in Solomon's Colonnade rather than an open-air courtyard, most likely to be protected from the cold and elements (23).

The Jews wanted Jesus to clearly state whether or not he was the Messiah (24).

Jesus responded by stating that his miracles proved his identity (25).

The people did not believe because they were not part of Jesus' flock (26). The issue was spiritual, not intellectual.

Eternal life is made possible through Jesus' life (27-28). Our ultimate security rests on the Good Shepherd.

Jesus reminded his hearers that it was the Father as well as himself who would keep the sheep secure (29).

Jesus claimed that he and the Father were one in action and purpose (30).

Jesus claimed to be God's Son (31-39)

The Jews clearly understood what Jesus was saying and wanted to stone him for blasphemy (31-33).

Jesus cited Psalm 82:6 to defend his claim (34-36). If the Old Testament used the word "gods" to refer to Israel's judges, why should the Jews object when Jesus implied that he was God?

"Scripture cannot be broken" means that man cannot annul it, set it aside, or prove it false. Jesus was pointed out that if you claim Scripture as your authority, you cannot disregard it because you disagree with what it says.

Jesus pointed his listeners back to the work he had been doing (37-38).

The Jews correctly understood Jesus' claim and wanted to seize him (39).

Jesus withdraws from Jerusalem (40-42)

Because of their hostility, Jesus leaves town (40).

Many people who had heard John the Baptist preach recognized that Jesus was fulfilling everything John the Baptist had said about him (41).

Many were convinced of the truth of Jesus' claims (42).

Application

When you witness, don't expect everyone to believe the gospel. Not even Jesus convinced everyone he was God's Son.

Don't let a religious festival crowd out the meaning of the event.

Rest in the security of your salvation.

Who is Jesus to you?