

Jesus Knows His Sheep and Defends His Claims

John 10:19-42

The Shepherd Knows His Sheep

¹⁹ Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. ²⁰ And many of them said, "He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?" ²¹ Others said, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?" 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. 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." 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. 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. ³⁰ I and My Father are one."

Jesus Answers the Charge of Blasphemy

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." 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'? 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.

Believers Beyond Jordan

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.

Questions:

1. What two viewpoints over the sayings of Jesus again created division between people? vs 19-21 Those who did not accept Jesus attacked Him as having a demon - what strong evidence refuted this attack?
2. How does vs 22 show some time has passed since the events of ch. 7-10:18 which took place at the Feast of Tabernacles (late September-early October)? What feast was now being observed? (*also called the Feast of Lights or modern Hanukkah; commemorating the time when the Maccabees cleansed & rededicated the temple, 165 B.C*)
3. What demand did the Jews make of Jesus? vs 24 Why did Jesus not give them a plain answer? What was there which already gave enough proof that His words were true? vs 25
4. How did Jesus know which ones were His sheep? vs 26-27 How do those who are His sheep respond positively to Jesus, differently than the Jews were responding? vs 27-28
5. Who are promised eternal life in vs 28 and given to Jesus in vs. 29? What is indicated by no one being able to "snatch" or "pluck" these from Jesus or the Father's hands? vs 28-29
6. Does Jesus ever indicate in these verses that sheep do not have the ability or tendency to stray from the shepherd's protection? Why is it important to hear His voice and follow Him (stay close to the shepherd)?
7. What is Jesus' relationship to the Father? vs 30 In what sense is Jesus claiming this relationship, in a way different from what other people have? (see again John 8:24-28 and 8:56-58)
8. Why did the Jews take up stones to stone Jesus? vs 31-33 How does this answer those today who deny Jesus claimed to be anything more than a good man like other religious leaders?
9. What Old Testament passage did Jesus quote in response? vs 34 (see your marginal notes) In what sense were men called gods in this passage? What point does Jesus make from this passage? vs 35-36
10. What additional comment does Jesus make to show His attitude toward the scriptures? vs 35 What proof does Jesus again give for His claims in vs 37-38?
11. Where did Jesus go in vs 40-42 and how did people respond to Him there?