

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY  
"The Gospel of John"  
Pastor Jim Otte  
2019-2020

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Lesson 43: John 10:23-42

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> 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." <sup>25</sup> 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, <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.

- a. "the Feast of Dedication" – Instituted in 167 B.C. by Judas Maccabaeus to commemorate the rededication of the Temple after its profaning by Antiochus Epiphanes. Also called the Festival of Lights, it began in mid-December. So, Jesus would have walked in the colonnade seeking shelter from the weather.
- b. "If you are the Christ, tell us..." – The Jews "surrounded" him intended to confront Him, once again. "If" recalls Satan's temptation of Jesus: "If you are the Son of God, (prove it by...)"
- c. "the works...bear witness...but you do not believe" – There is a difference between those who seek clarity about Jesus out of faith, and those who refuse to believe and seek to undermine faith and teach others to reject Jesus.
  - a. Faithful seeking: "hunger and thirst for righteousness" – honest desire to know more; to seek connection
  - b. Unbelief seeking: seeking only to find fault or to weaken others' faith

<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, <sup>[a]</sup> is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one."

- a. "My sheep hear my voice" – reiterating His own words in verse 16. "Hear" indicates the act of listening and following. The relationship between listening and following is trained over time.
- b. "no one will snatch them out of my hand" – the promise is that, for those who remain in faith and do not wander from the Truth, nothing is strong enough to take you out of the Father's hand (care, protection, etc.). Nothing is strong enough to prevent you from returning to the Father's love.
  - a. The Holy Spirit brings to our minds, the reality of how much we need God's love, and the promises of God's unconditional love and of how He has delivered that love in Jesus.
  - b. When you are struggling with doubt, or when the consequences of your sinful pride hits you between the eyes, the Holy Spirit reminds you of how much God wants you back.

- i. **Genesis 3:8-13.** *And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool<sup>[c]</sup> of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>10</sup> And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup> He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*
1. God asked Adam and Eve three questions (He already knew the answers!) of repentance, faith, and forgiveness.
  2. Designed to bring them out of hiding: separation from God and each other, and back to His ‘hand’ of grace.
- ii. **Luke 15:17.** <sup>17</sup> *“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!’*

<sup>31</sup> **The Jews picked up stones again to stone him.** <sup>32</sup> **Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?”** <sup>33</sup> **The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.”**

- a. **“picked up stones again to stone him.”** – clear evidence that the Jewish leaders’ hearts are hardened; no turning back now!
- b. **“but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.”** – so complete was the Pharisees rejection of Jesus, as the Son of God, they totally discounted the most obvious signs: Jesus’ miracles: feeding the 5000; giving sight to the blind man; changing water into wine. Though, in fact, Jesus’ miracles pointed to His divinity, their preconceived bias blinded them to what was happening.
  - a. They sought to believe their bias, without examining it for flaws.
  - b. They were guilty of ‘group-think,’ meaning that they rejected any teaching contrary to their group’s convictions.
  - c. They persecuted anyone within their group who challenged their bias.

<sup>34</sup> **Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’?”** <sup>35</sup> **If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—** <sup>36</sup> **do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?**

- a. **“Is it not written in your Law”** – Jesus quotes Psalm 82:6. *I said, “You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you;*

- b. “do you say of Him whom the Father consecrated...’You are blaspheming”  
– Jesus recalls His Father’s setting Him aside for holy work (consecrating) at His Baptism (and later at the Mount of Transfiguration).

<sup>37</sup> If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; <sup>38</sup> 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 am in the Father.” <sup>39</sup> Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

- a. “If I am not doing...then do not believe me” – the simple test for any prophet or speaker of Truth: does he/she deliver? Does he/she walk the walk or merely talk the talk?

a. “works of the Father” –

- i. **Isaiah 42:1.** *Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon him;*
- ii. **Isaiah 42:6-7.** *“I am the LORD; I have called you<sup>[b]</sup> in righteousness;  
I will take you by the hand and keep you;  
I will give you as a covenant for the people,  
a light for the nations,  
<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.*
- iii. **Luke 7:22.** *And he answered **them**, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: **the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.***

- b. “but if I do them...believe the works” – the litmus test for any prophet was the veracity of his works. Since Jesus delivered on His works, they were compelled to believe in Him (by their own laws).