

A. John 10:22-42 – Confrontation at the Feast of Dedication

1. John 10:22 – *At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem...* This feast, which was celebrated in **December**, was not required by the Mosaic Law.
 - a. Israel first celebrated this festival back in BC 164 when the **temple** was reopened after it had been desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes.
 - b. Today the Feast of Dedication is often referred to as Hanukkah or the Festival of Lights. It is typically a **happy** time of the year for Jewish people.
2. John 10:23 – *“It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon.”* This entryway likely provided some shelter from the **cold** weather.
3. John 10:24 – *The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.”* The religious leaders demanded a straightforward **answer** from Jesus.
 - a. The truth was they had all the **evidence** necessary to come to a correct conclusion.
 - b. They were simply unwilling to believe that Jesus was indeed the Christ. A direct answer does not dissuade people like this who do not believe; it only ends up becoming the topic of accusations and conflict. These people were looking for something to hold **against** Him, not for something to make them believers.
4. John 10:25 – *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.”* Not only had Jesus told them who He was, His works also powerfully testified to His identity. It was glaringly **evident** who Jesus was. The Jews just did not want to believe.
5. John 10:26-28 – Since the religious leaders had not believed in Jesus as Messiah, they were clearly not sheep from God’s **flock**. On the other hand, those who had believed were eternally secure in God’s omnipotent hand.
 - a. John 10:26 – *“But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep.”* The reason they did not believe that Jesus was the Christ was because they did not belong to Him. The believing remnant of Israel readily believed in Jesus as Messiah. Conversely, unbelieving Israel **rejected** Him when He came on the scene. John 1:11
 - b. John 10:27 – *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”* The recognition of a shepherd by the sheep was a run-of-the-mill concept in ancient Israel. Sheep will not follow a stranger. They know the **voice** of their shepherd and follow his calls and lead.
 - c. John 10:28a – *“...and I give eternal life to them...”* Jesus told a most fascinating fact here. Jesus gives all His sheep, speaking of those He saves, eternal life as a **gift**. Eternal life lasts forever, and all true gifts are free. This is God’s grace in action. John 1:17
 - d. John 10:28b – *“... and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”* Those who believe in Jesus **never** perish. If in the future a child of God could end up perishing, this statement would be false, but Jesus Christ does not lie. He loses nothing. No one can rob you out of His hand. Nothing He holds gets dropped or stolen. Psalm 100:3
6. John 10:29 – *“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.”* It is not the believer’s ability or work, but rather God the Father’s infinite **power**, that saves and keeps the believer. The sheep Jesus owns are gifted to Him by the Father and no one can take them from His mighty grip.
 - a. Understanding God’s multifaceted work in salvation is a major step in understanding the eternal nature of our salvation. We are **safe** and secure in the double grip of God the Father and God the Son’s hands.
 - b. Since the day of Pentecost until today, no believer has ever become un-indwelt by God’s Holy Spirit. Speaking of the enduring **presence** of the Holy Spirit in John 14:16 Jesus said, *“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.”* 1 Corinthians 3:16
 - c. A believer cannot be **unsealed** by the Holy Spirit. We are protected because we have been sealed by the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of our coming glorification. Since He can never leave us, Paul in Ephesians 4:30 pleaded with us to never give the Holy Spirit grief by our actions. Ephesians 1:13-14
 - d. A believer can never be un-regenerated. To be born again is a one-way trip that can never be **undone**. Titus 3:5
 - e. All believers are spiritually baptized into union with Christ by means of the Holy Spirit. Nowhere in the Bible are we taught that anyone can become unbaptized spiritually, and **retreat** from union with God. 1 Corinthians 12:13

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- f. All believers in Christ are given eternal life as a gift the **moment** they trust in Christ. Romans 11:29 clearly shows that God's gifts cannot be removed or taken back. Romans 6:23
- g. We can conclude then that absolutely no believer is in danger of losing his or her salvation. That is the point of Jesus' **pledge** that "no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." 2 Timothy 2:19
7. John 10:30 – "I and the Father are one." In this simple yet powerful statement, Jesus claimed to be God. When Jesus stated that He and the Father are one, He was essentially declaring **equality** with the Father.
- Together with the Holy Spirit, the Father and the Son, are co-equal and constitute our one true **God**.
 - They are not three God's. The Son is not the Father or vice versa. They, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, are, all three, the one and **only** true God.
8. John 10:31 – *The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.* The religious leaders understood Jesus' claim to deity, and because they did not believe in Him, they instantly sought to **murder** Him. They had asked Him who He was, and He told them. Ironically, when He answered their question in direct, plain words, they immediately wanted Him dead.
9. John 10:32-33 – Jesus tried to **reason** with the furious mob.
- John 10:32 – *Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?"* Jesus had **only** done good for Israel. He had healed their sick, blind, deaf and mute. He had miraculously cleansed lepers and had even raised the dead. Which of those deeds, all inspired by the Father, justified Jesus' death?
 - John 10:33 – *The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God."* They believed killing Jesus was **valid** because He claimed to be God. To them Jesus was a common man. Today, His claims to deity are false to unbelievers, but to us it is profound truth.
10. John 10:34 – *Jesus answered them, "Has it not been written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'?"* Quoting from Psalms 82:6, the Lord presented a **shrewd** argument. From time to time they would have sung that Psalm. No one ever considered those words to be sacrilege. Jesus showed them where they quoted something similar, without a second thought.
11. John 10:35-36 – Jesus stunned these religious leaders by quoting from their own beloved scriptures. In the Old Testament God had called mere human beings **gods**. How then could they call Him a blasphemer if He said He was the Son of God?
- John 10:35 – "If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken)" If the word of God is always **true** and cannot be cancelled, changed or altered, how is it that mere humans were called "gods" back then? Jesus showed them biblically that they were overreacting.
 - John 10:36 – "...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'?" If the Bible calls mere humans gods, why did they **accuse** Him, whom God the Father had personally approved and sent into the world, of blasphemy for calling Himself the Son of God?
12. John 10:37-38 – Jesus said His works proved that He was in perfect oneness with the Father. Anyone who humbly and honestly examined the evidence found in the miracles and teaching of Christ had to **conclude** that He was indeed one with the Father. John 10:30
- John 10:37 – "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me..." Jesus asked His critics to simply look at the things He did and see if they **matched** the Father's works. This was a simple test they could easily perform. If His works did not match up with God's works, then Jesus told them to not trust in Him.
 - If Jesus was lying and sinning, He would not have been **like** the Father. In that case, they should not believe in him.
 - On the other hand, if He was blessing, healing, helping, feeding, and saving, He was like God. In that case, they should indeed **trust** Him and His words.
 - John 10:38 – "...but if I do them, 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." Jesus encouraged them to examine His **works** and compare them with what they knew to be true of God.
 - Jesus was convinced that even if they did not believe what He said, careful consideration of His works was enough **proof** that He and the Father were in perfect oneness.
 - Jesus had nothing to hide. He invited them to examine the record and consider the facts; then come to their own conclusion. He knew that an honest examiner would come to an honest, positive conclusion. We should approach cynics in a similar manner. True Christianity has nothing to **hide**.

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13. John 10:39 – *Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp* . The religious leaders tried again to arrest Jesus, but once more He escaped. After this Jesus did not return to Jerusalem until Palm Sunday, a day Christians everywhere still celebrate. That day, in Jerusalem, He presented Himself as **king** to cheering crowds.
14. John 10:40 – *And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He was staying there* . After slipping through the fingers of the angry religious mob, Jesus went back across the Jordan to the area where John first baptized and stayed there out of direct reach of the **cruel** religious leaders.
15. John 10:41 – *Many came to Him and were saying, “While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true.”* This shows that a lot of people followed Jesus to this secluded area beyond the Jordan. Many realized that while John had done no miracles, everything he said about the coming Messiah was **true** of the person of Jesus.
16. John 10:42 – *Many believed in Him there* . As a result of realizing that Jesus was the person predicted by John the Baptist, many believed in the Christ right then and there. In Greek, the aorist tense of the word *believed* PISTEUO indicates a one-time completed instance of **faith** in Christ. This faith of course resulted in their eternal salvation. Acts 19:4