

The Gospel of John

10:22-42

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.
As with this study and all bible studies, remember to pray before you start.

✚ **John 10:22-23** *Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch.*

You may be asking why we stopped last week in the middle of the story. Well if you read the verses correctly there is a two-month time warp from verse 21 to verse 22.

Back in **John 7:2** *Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.* We know this was the start of the whole thing. The feast of Tabernacles was held in October and here in verses **John 10:22** *Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.* This was held on none other than December 25th. This gives us the about a two-month time warp.

And you will remember what we read last week in the closing verses.

✚ **John 10:19-21** *Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. And many of them said, "He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?" Others said, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"*

So for two months, the Jews had time to chew on the words of Jesus, as they probably discussed this amongst themselves whenever they could.
Now after two months of discussion between themselves, they finally come up to Jesus and ask Him.

✚ **John 10:24** *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."*

You can debate and debate with non-believers until you are blue in the face, but until the Holy Spirit touches their lives, they just won't get it. That's what the religious leaders were doing, debating over Jesus' words, not listening or believing them.
So they are tired of debating and want it straight from Jesus' mouth whether He is the Messiah or not. Jesus does answer them, but they won't like His answer.

✚ **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, they bear witness of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone 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 My Father's hand. I and My Father are one."

Remember back at the pool of Bethesda when Jesus healed a man and they wanted to kill Jesus?

† ***John 5:16-18 For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.***

And why did they want to kill Him, because He told them truth of Who He was. But even if they didn't remember then, what about the works Jesus has been doing in the Father's name?

† ***Matt 11:2-6 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."***

So Jesus goes on to tell them that He did tell them, but they did not believe, even though the works He did, He did in the Father's name. Jesus also goes back to what they were talking about two months ago, and probably what they had been debating about for the past two months. Jesus not only tells them that they don't believe in Him, but also why.

✧ ***But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.***

There are many in the world today who know of Jesus, just as these religious leaders did, but they don't know who Jesus really is. Ask any one who Jesus is and they will tell you that He is the one born on Christmas day, or something about Him dying or raising from the dead on Easter. Some will even say that He is the Son of God, or even God Himself. Some of the cults teach that Jesus is the brother of satan or that He is a god, but not God.

Even though many will say these things about Jesus, they really don't believe them. What the cults teach as just mentioned about Jesus being the brother of satan is false anyway, so no one should believe any of it. But Jesus being born to a virgin and dying and raising from the dead and being the Son of God and God come in the flesh are all true.

It reminds me of a story of a man who was a tightrope walker. In his act the man would walk across a canyon on a tightrope pushing a wheelbarrow. The people were all excited about this act, and as he did it they were all amazed. Then he loaded the wheelbarrow full of potatoes and asked if the people thought he could walk across with the wheelbarrow full of potatoes. All excited they shouted out, *“Yes, you can do it. We believe you can.”* And so he did and the crowd went wild as they cheered him on.

When he returned back to the other side, he asked if they thought that he could push a man in the wheelbarrow across the canyon in this wheelbarrow on the tightrope.

The crowd got even more excited as they yelled out once again, *“Yes, you can do it. We believe you can.”*

Then he asked, *“Who will get into the wheelbarrow?”*

At that the crowd became quite as no one wanted to get into the wheelbarrow.

It's just like the world, they get all excited on Christmas and Easter and say that they believe in Jesus, but when asked if they want to get on board, the world becomes quite because no one wants to.

God will not force anyone to enter heaven if they don't want to and those who reject His Son Jesus are saying that they don't want to go to heaven.

Many do want to go, but they want to get there by their own way. But as Jesus has been teaching, He is the only way to heaven.

If you think of a bank, there is only one door to enter the bank by. This is done so that robbers cannot come in except by passing the guard, nor can they leave without passing the guard. If there were many doors to enter the bank, then it would be too easy for robbers to steal from the bank.

Jesus said that:

‡ **John 10:9** *I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.*

And also:

‡ **John 10:10a** *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.*

False religions and even the world teach that you can enter heaven by some other way than the only door, which is Jesus Christ.

The truth is that they don't want you to go to heaven, because they are not led by the Holy Spirit in their thinking. It's all lies that are not in the bible.

So who are you going to trust, the world, a false religion or cult, or God who wrote the instructions on how to get into heaven?

To enter a collage, there is certain criterion that has to be met in order to be a part of that collage. You can lie, cheat and even steal to get into a collage, but as soon as you're found out, you will be kicked out.

Jesus tells a parable of such an instance of a man who tried to get into heaven by some other means, but was found out.

† **Matt 22:1-14** *And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding." ' But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."*

So many make fun of Christians and go their own way just like verse 5 says. But they really want to go the heaven just as the parable speaks of, but they will not be able to enter.

So the question is, are you going to heaven and how are you getting there, by your own means and ways, or by God's?

Well you just read of what will happen to those who try it their own way and not God's. In the parable many did not even want to go to the wedding, just as there are many who don't want to go to heaven. They think it will be boring and they will be stuck on a cloud playing a harp for all eternity. They think that being a Christian is boring and that we never have any fun.

Possibly in this parable, the men didn't like the father of the bridegroom, or even the bridegroom or the bride, so they made up excuses not to go.

There are many who don't like God (the Father) Jesus (the bridegroom) or Christians (the bride of Jesus Christ).

But it also seems in this parable that a person really did want to go to the marriage.

Possibly because secretly he did like the father, the bridegroom and the bride but didn't want his friends to know this, so he made up an excuse to please his friends. But later he tried to sneak into the wedding.

There are those who secretly like God, Jesus and even Christians, but they don't want their friends to know about it so they pretend that they really don't. They think that when they die they can sneak into heaven.

But Jesus said:

† **Matt 10:32-33** *Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.*

Jesus doesn't want to deny you before the Father, but it's you who will decide if He does or not.

If you decide not to deny Jesus and confess Him, Jesus said that:

✠ *And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone 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 My Father's hand.*

Now comes the question about eternal salvation, or can you lose your salvation.

I believe that according to scripture you can NOT lose your salvation. But I think the real question is where you really saved in the first place.

Remember this parable by Jesus?

† **Matt 13:3-9** *Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*

Jesus also explained the meaning of this parable.

† **Matt 13:19-23** *"Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."*

Many will hear the word of God. Some will reject it, some will accept it for a while, or they hear the word but would rather follow the world's way. Finally, there are those who

hear and believe. Anyone can pray a prayer, but it's not just the words that save you. Do you believe them and are they from your heart, or from your head?

What's the difference?

If they are from your head, then it was just an emotional thing and the excitement will wear off and you are back to the world just as you used to be. If it is from your heart then there will be a change in your life, because you will no longer seek after the things of this world, but would rather want to be pleasing to God and not man.

Now we all stumble and fall in our walk with the Lord. We are not perfect and we will continue to sin. But we won't like our sin and will return to the Lord, even a hundred times a day if that is what it takes, asking for His forgiveness.

But we aren't talking about normal everyday stumbling that we all go through. We are talking about right rebellion, thinking just because you prayed a prayer once that you're ok with God and can go right back to your old lifestyle. There is no security in that.

So your lifestyle, what you think, and how you live will help you to determine if you are saved or not. If you refuse to go to church, or fellowship with other believers and live like hell as the world does, it may very well be a good indication that you are not saved and you are not in the Father's hand.

But if you find joy in going to church, hanging out with other believers, and try to live according to God's way as the bible teaches, and you believe that Jesus died for your sins, and rose from the dead, then you are in good hands because you are in the hands of the Father and as Jesus said, ***"no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."*** Also another good way to determine if you are saved is to see if there is godly fruit in your life. What is Godly fruit?

✠ **Gal 5:22-24 (NLT)** *But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.*

Don't think that you have to master all of these to be saved, but if you are heading in that direction then you are in good hands.

Now Jesus answers them plainly in regards to their question of:

✠ **John 10:24** *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."*

✠ **John 10:30** ***"I and My Father are one."***

Some say that Jesus never claimed to be God, but you can't get much plainer than that! The Jews knew exactly what Jesus was talking about when He said this, because their response was not with words, but rather:

✠ **John 10:31-33** *Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" 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."*

We saw Your works but we don't care about what You did, we care about what You said. That was pretty much their response to Jesus.

But what they didn't understand was that the works of Jesus, testified that He was God and the Messiah. Jesus was able to back up His words with His life and the things He did.

What about you? You claim to be a Christian. But does your life and the things you do match up to what you claim? I've quoted this saying before that I heard from pastor Chuck Smith, and I think it is appropriate here again.

"If you believe that Jesus is alive, why are you living like He's dead?"

Do you claim to be a Christian but live like the world?

You are in the Father's hand, what are you putting there, the filth and sin of world all over you, or your repentant life?

✠ **John 10:34-38** *Jesus answered them, "Is it not 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 broken), 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 I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 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."*

Jesus was quoting:

✠ **Psalms 82:6** *I said, "You are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High."*

Some cults use this verse to try and say that we are like God or that we are gods and when you die you will rule over your own so-called kingdom as a god.

But they misinterpret scripture here, because the word gods refer to "judges" or "rulers".

If you read the entire psalm you will see this without even having to interpret the word, but even if you do the original Hebrew does mean "judge" or "ruler".

Once again Jesus tells them that if they don't believe Him because of His words that His works testify of His words and that they are true.
Jesus uses their own words against them.

✠ The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You."

They saw Jesus' good works but still they didn't believe Him.

✠ John 10:39-42 Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand.

And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed. Then many came to Him and said, "John performed no sign, but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true." And many believed in Him there.

Here we are sometime later after John the Baptist had been killed, but still his testimony of Jesus lives on.

When you are gone will the life you lived and the things you said reflect Jesus in your life? What will your tombstone say?

"He spoke of Jesus, but we never saw Jesus in his life"

Or

"He spoke of Jesus and we saw Jesus in his life, so we believe also"

Well that's it for this week, next week we will read of Lazarus being raised from the dead after being dead for four days.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may your life reflect Jesus so brightly, that even after your death, Jesus will still shine brightly!