

JOHN 10:22-42
THE GOOD SHEPHERD SPEAKS!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 10 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

As we have seen over the last couple of weeks, we have been looking at the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ!

In these verses we have seen that Jesus is the only way, the only Shepherd we are to follow. And as He calls us, we hear His voice, and we follow after Him.

But make no mistake about it, there are false shepherds out there and they are also calling us to follow them. And here is where we need to be careful. These false shepherds are nothing more than wolves in sheep's clothing and they are very good at deceiving the sheep to follow them. Tragically, some do.

And here is the warning that Jesus gives to us in regard to what we are to do. He said in John 10:8, **“Yet they [His sheep] will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”**

Don't succumb to their false teaching. And I will tell you this. The more you listen to them the more your defenses will be worn down and the more you will be deceived.

As we moved on, we saw how our Good Shepherd laid down His life for us, His sheep.

Not only that, but we also saw how our Good Shepherd loves us, His sheep.

Then we looked at the fact that our Good Shepherd unites us, His sheep.

And we also saw how our Good Shepherd freely cares for us, His sheep.

Truly an amazing section in the Gospel of John. And if I can be honest with you, every section of John is amazing and for that matter, and you have heard me say this before, every book we have been through in the Bible is amazing and I love it and I hope you do as well.

As we will see in our study this morning, some 2½ months have passed between verses 21 and 22 of the Gospel of John. At this point we are just four months from the cross.

And opposition towards Jesus from the Jewish religious leaders is growing and as we will see, by the time we get to the cross, the same Jewish people that were singing out praises unto Jesus were crying out ***“Crucify Him!”***

Let me show you what I mean. In Matthew 21:9, on Palm Sunday, the day that Jesus rode through Jerusalem as the Messiah the King, we are told, **“Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!’”**

Then, as Pilate wanted to release Jesus and crucify Barabbas, a murderer and insurrectionist, Pilate gives the crowd of Jews a choice and in Luke 23:20-21 we are told, **“Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. But they shouted, saying, ‘Crucify Him, crucify Him!’”**

Now some feel that this is just the religious leaders. I don’t think so and I will show you why. When Pilate told the crowd that he was washing his hands from the blood of Jesus, which he couldn’t do, he was guilty, but listen to what the crowd said back to Pilate in Matthew 27:25, **“And all the people answered and said, ‘His blood be on us and on our children.’”**

What I want you to see is how this opposition against Jesus was growing and growing as we get closer to the cross!

But why was this happening? What did Jesus do that they were so upset with Him and ultimately want to put Him to death?

Think about this for a minute. For some three plus years Jesus has traveled throughout Israel and He was bringing forth the Gospel. He was calling for people to repent of their sins and to move out of that hypocritical false religious system that developed in Israel. He did many signs, wonders, miracles. He opened the eyes of the blind. He made the lame walk. He opened the ears of the deaf. He opened the mouth of the mute. He cleansed the leper. He even raised the dead!

All these things that were spoken of regarding the Messiah were fulfilled in Jesus, they had no excuses for rejecting Him.

But, for the Jewish religious leaders, they were jealous of Him, they did not want to lose their position with Rome and thus, they were against Jesus!

And, as the Jewish religious leaders rejected Jesus, that was caught by the people who were following them and, in the end, the blood of Jesus was upon them because they rejected Jesus!

Did some believe? Absolutely, but the numbers were small compared to the thousands and thousands that He ministered to over those three plus years!

In spite of this opposition against Him growing, we will see, and the title of this message
- THE GOOD SHEPHERD SPEAKS!

And I have broken down the verses we will be looking at this morning into the following points. They are,

THE OPPOSITION – JOHN 10:22-24

THE GOOD SHEPHERD SPEAKS – JOHN 10:25-30

THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS RESPOND – JOHN 10:31

THE QUESTION – JOHN 10:32

THEIR REJECTION OF JESUS – JOHN 10:33

JESUS' DEFENSE – JOHN 10:34-38

THE RESPONSE – JOHN 10:35-42

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 10, beginning in verse 22 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and we look at – ***THE GOOD SHEPHERD SPEAKS!***

JOHN 10

VERSES 22-24

As you read this, and understand that it was winter in Israel, what feast was this or was this a feast that the Lord instructed them to follow in the Old Testament?

No, this was not one of the seven feasts that the Lord instructed Israel to follow. Those feasts occurred in the spring and fall, one in late spring or early summer, and this one is in the winter, the Feast of Dedication.

If all the feasts that the Lord instructed Israel to follow were in the spring and fall, what is this feast all about that took place in winter?

The Feast of Dedication or the Feast of Lights, what we probably know better to us as the Feast of Hanukkah and this feast began on the 25th day of the month of Kislev, and it commemorated the rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees in 165 B. C. after the Temple was desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes several years earlier.

Let me give you a little insight into what Antiochus did.

He stole millions in gold and silver from the Temple treasury.

Not only that but any person possessing a copy of the Law of God would be put to death.

If you circumcised your child, you would be put to death.

The Temple was turned into a house of prostitution. The altar of burnt offering was turned into an altar unto the Greek god Zeus. Pigs were sacrificed upon the great altar.

This was known as the Abomination of Desolation that Daniel spoke about, and Jesus speaks of it in Matthew chapter 24 regarding what the Antichrist will do in the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem during the Tribulation Period!

Not only that, but 80,000 Jews were killed, and an equal number were sold as slaves!

The rise of the Maccabees ended these horrors.

This Abomination of Desolation or the desecrating of the Temple became the catalyst for a Jewish revolt that was led by a godly man, a Jewish priest named Mattathias and his five sons. This revolt began in 167 B. C. and a year later Mattathias died.

After his death his son, Judah, also known as Judas Maccabee, the Hammer, took over and the revolt was known as the Maccabean revolt!

Within two years after he took over and three years when the revolt began, exactly three years after the Temple was desecrated, the Jews had driven out the Syrians!

It was after this that the Temple was rededicated.

Of this, Barclay tells us, *“It was told that when the Temple had been purified and the great seven branched candlestick re-lit, only one little cruse of unpolluted oil could be found. That cruse was still intact, and still sealed with the impress of the ring of the High Priest. By all normal measures, there was only oil enough in that cruse to light the lamps for one single day. But by a miracle it lasted for eight days, until new oil had been prepared according to the correct formula and had been consecrated for its sacred use.”*

That is what they were celebrating here in John 10:22.

What I also want you to see is that it was winter. Yes, winter outside, winter on the calendar but also winter in the hearts of these Jewish religious leaders and some of the people!

Their hearts were cold and hard to the things of God as we are going to see as Jesus is going to speak in the area of Solomon’s porch on the Temple Mount.

What is this place called *“Solomon’s Porch”*?

Regarding this area known as Solomon’s porch, Bruce gives us this insight, *“Solomon’s colonnade was the name given to the portico which ran along the east side of the outer court of Herod’s temple. It is mentioned in Acts as the place where Peter addressed the crowd the congregated to see the man who had been cured of his lifelong lameness at the Beautiful Gate, and again as the place where the Jerusalem believers regularly gathered for their public witness to Jesus as the Christ (Acts 3:11; 5:12).”*

Keep in mind that winter is the rainy season in Israel. Thus, this was a protected area for people to gather as it had a large roofed-in enclosure. And this roof was supported by beautiful columns that filled one side of the Temple area.

This is where the Lord will be speaking, in this area that was protected from the rain.

And we are told that **“the Jews surrounded Him.”**

And please understand that they did not surround Him because they wanted to hear what He had to say because they agreed with Him. You see, the word “**surrounded**” in the Greek speaks of being closed in on all sides, being pinned down you might say. He could not get away!

And their question is very simple, and I will paraphrase what they were saying, “*Look Jesus, if you really are the Messiah, if you really believe that, then you need to tell us. If you are not the Messiah, then you need to tell us. Why are you hiding this from us?*”

Remember what I have called these verses – **THE OPPOSITION!**

And what a question. Jesus has spent some three years telling them who He is, showing them who He is. In fact, in John 18:20-21 we are told, “**Jesus answered him, ‘I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said.’**”

You see, they knew exactly what Jesus taught, who He said He was, they just refused to accept it.

Let me show you what I mean that they fully understood what Jesus was telling them and the other Jewish people, that He was Almighty God, but again, they refused to believe no matter what evidence was given to them.

In John 5:16-18 we are told, “**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.**”

You see, Jesus did not hide who He was, Almighty God. In fact, when we see Jesus speak that He is Almighty God in the Gospel of John, the way that it is written, it speaks of something that He continually taught, that He is God!

So why was this question asked?

Because they wanted to find a way to discredit Jesus and thus, they kept asking Him to speak of things that would discredit Him, but He always exposed their hearts and they never won, ***NEVER!***

You can't fight against God and win. You may think you are winning, but if you are running from Him, which you are doing if you are fighting against Him, you will see in the end you won't win unless you turn back to Him. This is something that they refused to do and thus – ***THE OPPOSITION!***

Clarke makes it very clear of what they wanted from Jesus. He wrote, ***“The Jews asked this question through extreme perfidiousness [deliberately faithless; treacherous; deceitful]: they wished to get him to declare himself king of the Jews, that they might accuse him to the Roman governor; and by it they insolently insinuated that all the proofs he had hitherto given them of his Divine mission were good for nothing.”***

Keep in mind that we are only some four months or so from the cross of Calvary, as I have said!

So they are asking Jesus, ***“Are you the Messiah, or aren't you? If you are, tell us plainly.”***

And from that we are going to see – ***THE GOOD SHEPHERD SPEAKS!***

VERSES 25-30

There are three things that these religious leaders had, two dealt with information and because they refused the information it led to their conclusion, they refused to believe!

The first point is that they had all the information that they needed to believe.

All the things that Jesus did were in fulfillment of what the Old Testament spoke regarding the Messiah.

Let me show you what I mean.

We are told in Isaiah 35:5-6 regarding the Messiah, **“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.”** His works are the evidence of who He is!

You see, the problem wasn't that Jesus was unclear about who He was and where He came from. The problem was that the religious leaders had hearts of unbelief that lead them to come against Jesus.

The second point is that the evidence that they had regarding Jesus, they refused to believe!

They had the information. They had the evidence. Why couldn't they see that Jesus is the Messiah?

Jesus tells us in verse 26, **“... because you are not My sheep ...”**

Now you may be thinking that is not fair, it is not right. Well, they could become His sheep if they receive Him but since their unbelief has closed their hearts, their eyes, their minds to the fact that Jesus is the Messiah, they are not His sheep and that goes for all who reject Jesus!

You see, by rejecting the information and the evidence, it led them to unbelief and thus, they were religious, but they were not saved!

Now here in John 10:27-29 we see Jesus speak of our eternal security in our salvation.

I know that some struggle with this idea of eternal security, but these verses are wonderful promises of God to us regarding eternal life.

Did you hear me on that one? *ETERNAL LIFE*, it is a life that will never end as we are with the Lord!

It is not eternal life until you blow it, you will! It is eternal life.

You see, our Good Shepherd will not allow anyone to come and take us away from Him. Not only that, but the Father has us in His hand also, and no one can snatch us out of His hand. Our salvation is based upon His faithfulness not ours!

Now, in saying that, do you really believe the Devil or anyone else can come and snatch us away, that we can lose our salvation, our eternal life?

NO WAY!

Think of it like this. Place one hand out, then your other hand on top of it. This is the hand of Jesus and the hand of the Father brought down around our lives and we are in the middle. We are secure in God!

You see, no one can snatch us out of their hands! This to me is one of the clearest passages on the security of our salvation, eternal security!

It's comforting to know that the hands that created the world holds onto the believer.

Another great passage for me is found in Romans 8:31-39, which says, **“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

The creator of heaven and earth is on our side, so who can fight and win against Him? No one! Who can separate us from God’s love? No one! Nothing, no created thing can separate us from the love of God. I love that! We are safe and secure in the hands of God!

One Greek scholar said this in regard to this verse here in John 10:28, *“The Greek is an emphatic, double negative with second aorist middle subjunctive of ‘apollumi’ (“to destroy”) which is the strongest Greek construction possible.”* (Explain)

In other words, no one, we shall not be destroyed – ***NEVER IN CHRIST!***

Again, I know some struggle with this but let me see if this clears it up for you. One pastor said, *“Backslide they may, perish they won’t! Chastise you He may, disown you He won’t!”*

Exactly!

Just one more regarding eternal security and that is what Paul said in Philippians 1:6, **“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”**

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, **“And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ [right up to the time of His return], developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you.”**

God started the work and the work He started He will *FINISH!*

Praise God for this security we have in Christ because it is based upon His finished work and not yours or mine!

I like the way that Ray Stedman put it as he shares this story. He wrote,

I remember my patron saint, Dr. H. A. Ironside, telling about preaching once on this theme of the safety and security of the believer.

A woman came up to him afterwards and said to him, “I don’t agree with your doctrine.” “What don’t you agree with?” he asked her. “Well, this doctrine of once saved, always saved,” she replied.

He said to her, “Let me read you a verse that says that.” She said, “Oh, I know what you are going to read. You are going to read John 10:28, aren’t you?” He replied, “As a matter of fact that is the verse I was going to read.” So he read the words, “‘I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish and no one can snatch them out of my hand.’ Do you believe that?” he asked her.

“Not according to your interpretation,” she replied. “But I didn’t interpret it, I just read it to you,” Dr. Ironside said. “Well,” she replied, “I don’t believe the way you see it.”

Then let me read it this way,” he said. “Supposing it said, ‘I give them life for 20 years, and they shall never perish for 20 years and no one can snatch them out of my hand for 20 years,’ what would you think about that?” She said, “I think they would be safe for 20 years.”

He said, “Let us say 40 years. Would they be safe for 40 years?” “Yes,” she said, “I think they would be safe for 40 years.”

“But it doesn’t say 20 or 40 years, it says eternal life: ‘and they shall never perish.’” The Greek text is very strong at that point. What it literally says is, “They shall not ever perish forever.” Let’s read it that way: “I give unto them life forever and they shall never perish forever.” Do you believe that?” he asked her.

“Not according to your interpretation,” was her response. At this point he used to say, “A man convinced, against his will, is of the same opinion still, and a woman - is sometimes as bad as a man.”

It is true. You cannot convince anybody who does not wish to be convinced. But the verse is very clear, isn’t it? “They shall never perish.” No one, not even the person himself, can take a believer out of the Father’s hand, because the Father is greater than all. We are kept by the sovereign power and love of God. We may struggle, we may hurt, we may go through times of dark, deep depression and times of doubt and despair, but we shall never perish if we have come to him and are part of his flock.

I think that is very clear, don't you? There are no buts about it, we have eternal life in Jesus, and no one can take that away from us!

Now John 10:30 is where Jesus makes the Jewish religious leaders mad. Jesus said, “**I and My Father are one.**”

Why did it make them so mad, as we will see?

Because Jesus claimed equality with the Father, He claimed to be Almighty God!

Now I know that some like to deny the deity of Jesus, I have talked with them, but if you do not believe that Jesus is God, this verse just blows you out of the water!

The word that Jesus used here for “**one**” (*HEN* in the Greek) does not suggest that the Father and the Son are the same identical person. It speaks of them being one in essence.

You see, the Father is God, the Son is God, but don't make the mistake as some do and say that then the Father is the Son, and the Son is the Father as the Jesus Only people do. That is not what is being said here.

One writer put it like this regarding this relationship between the Father and the Son as he wrote,

Opponents of the deity of Jesus say that the oneness Jesus had with the Father was nothing more than a unity of *purpose* and *mission* – even as a husband and wife or father and son may have a unity of purpose of mission, yet still they are not the same person.

This however misses the point.

First, we never argue that the Bible teaches that the Father and the Son are the same Person – they are one God, but distinct in their Persons.

Second, it misses the most obvious point: that even true unity of purpose and mission between a husband and wife or father and son exist only because they are each equally and totally *human*. The Father and the Son have this unique unity because they are equally and totally *God* – that is, Divine Being.

- David Guzik

Also, Spiros Zodhiates put it this way in his book **The Complete Word Study New Testament**: *“Heis means one numerically while hen means one in essence, as in John 10:30; ‘I and my Father are one (hen)’ (i.e., one in essence although two different personalities). Had it said heis, it would have meant one person.”*

You see, He is speaking of unity not identity! To me, you don’t even have to understand Greek to get this one. Just read the next verse and you will see the Jews knew exactly what He was saying, and they were ready to respond appropriately, at least in their own minds!

So we have seen – ***THE SHEPHERD SPEAKS!***

And, as we move on, we see – ***THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS RESPOND!***

VERSE 31

Picture what is going on here. The Jewish religious leaders have surrounded Jesus, they want Jesus to tell them if He is the Messiah, and now, as Jesus said, **“I and My Father are one”** the Jewish religious leaders picked-up stones to stone Jesus.

And notice that it says **“again.”** It seems like Jesus irritated these Jewish religious leaders a lot and they often took up stones to stone Him!

And in the Greek, Barclay reminds us, that *“The Greek really means that they went and fetched stones to fling at him.”*

They were prepared to stone Jesus. But why did they pick-up stones to stone Him?

As we will see when we get to John 10:33, they said, **“... Because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”**

I think we understand that, but why stoning?

Morris tells us, *“It was laid down in the Law that blasphemy was to be punished by stoning (Leviticus 24:16). But these men were not allowing the due processes of law to take their course.”*

That was the problem, they were not allowed to just stone Him, He needed to go before the religious court system, but they were not going to win this one and just took the matter in their own hands, or as Spurgeon wrote, *“If they cannot answer holy arguments with fair reasonings, they can give hard answers with stones. If you cannot destroy the reasoning, you may, perhaps, destroy the reasoner.”*

Make no mistake about it, they understood what Jesus said. Not like the Jehovah Witnesses and other cults do today, who try to deny the deity of Jesus. He claimed to be God, one in essence with the Father and these Jewish religious leaders fully understood that!

And we have seen how – ***THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS RESPONDED!***

Now listen to what Jesus says to them – ***THE QUESTION!***

VERSE 32

Listen again to what Jesus says to them, and I love it. Jesus says to them as they are picking up stones to stone Him, **“Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?”**

That is a great question right!

Now some may ask, ***“What good works?”***

He healed the lame, opened the eyes of the blind, raised the dead, healed the leper, opened the mouth of the mute, opened the ears of the deaf and He did many other good works. So why are they picking up stones to stone Him?

Listen to their response – ***THEIR REJECTION OF JESUS!***

VERSE 33

If you didn't get it yet, here it is! We read this already of what they said to Jesus but listen once more. They said to Jesus, **“... Because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”**

Why were they going to stone Him? Because Jesus, being just a man in their minds, also claimed to be God, equal in essence to the Father, and He is! It doesn't get any clearer than that!

Now some like to argue and say that the Jewish religious leaders misunderstood Jesus. That Jesus really wasn't saying that He was Almighty God!

And if someone is accusing you of doing something that you did not do, what will you do, especially if they are going to stone you for it?

You will defend yourself.

Jesus would have said, ***“Hey guys, that is not what I am saying. Of course I am not God!”***

But they didn't misunderstand Jesus and He did not have to correct them. He is Almighty God!

But they could not believe that God had become a man to save them from their sins!

As we read on, we will see – ***JESUS' DEFENSE!***

VERSES 34-38

Now as you read this it can be very confusing. So, let me see if I can help clear these verses up for you. And this is important for us to understand.

Why is this so important?

You see, the Mormons pick up on this and go to Psalm 82 and use it as a proof text that they can be god's and one day have their own planet to populate and rule over. That is not at all what these verses are saying.

But it is not only the Mormon's. We see the New Age teach that we are gods, and that teaching has come into the church today and I believe it is one of the big pushes for the last days church, the One World Church, that we are all god's and thus, if we are god's we can decide what is right and what is wrong!

Now let me deal with this issue in Psalm 82 because, like I have said, the Mormons take this to show that they are gods, and the men will inhabit their own planet one day and have spirit children with many wives! Sorry ladies!

But this belief that we are gods is taken from Psalm 82, and I will deal with this in a minute, but I want you to see how they twist what God has said to believe the lie, that we are gods!

Brigham Young, successor to Joseph Smith, speaking on June 8, 1873, said this, *“The devil told the truth [Genesis 3:4-5]. I do not blame mother Eve, I would not have had her miss eating the forbidden fruit for anything in the world.”*

You see, the eating of this fruit made Eve, and Adam gods and it opened up the path to godhood for all of humanity, for you and me!

Joseph Smith, founder of Mormonism, said *“The fall of man came as a blessing in disguise. I never speak of the part Eve took in this fall as sin nor do I accuse Adam of sin. We can hardly look upon anything resulting in such benefits as being sin.”*

In other words, Mormonism is based upon the words of the serpent who spoke to Eve and told her and Adam that they shall be gods!

And just to show you that Mormonism and Christianity are not the same, obviously, but many Christians believe that Mormons are Christian, listen to what Brigham Young said, *“All Christians are groveling in darkness . . .” and that “. . . the Christian’s God is the Mormon’s devil.”*

Now, what is Psalm 82 really speaking about?

It is not saying that we are Gods!

The reason I can say that is simple, the Scriptures testify to the fact that we are not God!

In fact, in Psalm 82, we are told, **“I said, ‘You are gods, And all of you are children of the Most High. But you shall die like men, And fall like one of the princes.’ Arise, O God, judge the earth; For You shall inherit all nations.”** Psalm 82:6-8.

God will not share His glory with anyone and there is only One God, who is manifested in three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit!

Now, in regard to what Jesus is saying here, first of all, we must go to the “**law**” because that is what Jesus tells us here, not the Psalms, the law is where He is speaking from.

In Exodus 21:22 we read, “**If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman’s husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges [Elohim] determine.**”

The word “**judges**” in the Hebrew is Elohim, gods.

Also, in Exodus 22:8 we read, “**If the thief is not found, then the master of the house shall be brought to the judges [Elohim] to see whether he has put his hand into his neighbor’s goods.**”

So, what does this all mean?

First of all, the judges in Israel represented God before the people, they had the power over life and death depending upon the sentence. They were handing out, you might say, God’s punishment to the people for their actions, and thus they were called god’s, Elohim. Not literally God, but acting in His place, representing Him before the people. They were human judges.

What Jesus is doing here is arguing from the lesser, the earthly judges, to the greater, the Judge over all the earth, Himself.

Thus, if they called these earthly men gods, how much more it is to call Jesus God! You see, look at the testimony that He has left for them; there is no denying He is God!

I hope that clears things up for you that Jesus is God, and we are not!

Warren Wiersbe puts it like this. He wrote,

Though these people held high offices and were called “Elohim - gods” (Ex. 21:6), they were only humans and would be judged for their sins. Privilege brings responsibility, and responsibility brings accountability.

Jesus quoted [Psalm 82:6 in John 10:34–36] to defend His own claim to be the Son of God. For, if the Lord called “gods” the imperfect human judges chosen by men, how much more should Jesus Christ be called “the Son of God,” He who was set apart by the Father and sent to earth!

In spite of their titles and offices, these judges would die like any other human and pay the price for their sins . . . When the Lord comes to judge the earth, no one will escape and His sentence will be just. Asaph’s prayer [Psalm 82:8] echoes the church’s prayer, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10).

- Warren Wiersbe

Listen to Psalm 82:1 as the Lord speaks to the unjust judges or the gods who were judging His people and now, what He has done.

We are told, “**God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods.**”

I think that is what we are seeing here. Almighty God, Jesus is standing in the midst of these false religious leaders!

I like the way that Ryle has paraphrased verse 38 here in John. He said, “*If I do the works of my Father, then, though ye may not be convinced by what I say, be convinced by what I do. Though ye resist the evidence of my words, yield to the evidence of my works. In this way learn to know and believe that I and my Father are indeed one, He in me and I in Him, and that in claiming to be His Son, I speak no blasphemy.*”

Now, notice how these Jewish religious leaders responded to what Jesus just said and when you do, you will see that He claimed to be God once again – **THE RESPONSE!**

VERSES 39-42

Notice that the Jewish religious leaders once again sought to take Jesus. They just could not accept what He was telling them, even though their own Scriptures testified of Jesus being the Messiah!

So Jesus “**escaped out of their hand**” and the idea here is He escaped out of their power, they had no hold on Him.

Now we don’t know exactly how Jesus kept getting away, but we do know it was not His time yet!

One writer put it like this, “*He went forth out of that closing circle – the power that emanated from Him preventing their laying hands on Him: it was the same power that he allowed to issue from Him on the night of His arrest.*” (Trench)

That is important for us to understand, because, even with the trials and the crucifixion, they had no power over Jesus. He freely gave His life for us. The creator of heaven and earth is not bound by His creation, never forget that!

And we are told that He went beyond the Jordan, to the area where John the Baptist was baptizing people. It is the area of Perea.

We see this in John 1:28, “**These things were done in Bethabara [or Bethany] beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.**” Bethany was in the area of Perea, and this is where Jesus is at right now.

Now why did He go there?

Tenney gives us this insight as he wrote, “*Perea was the domain of Herod Antipas, where the rulers in Jerusalem had no authority. Jesus would be safe from harassment there – at least temporarily.*”

Things were heating up in Jerusalem, the cross is still some four months away and He did not want to remain there because it was not time! Not yet.

And Jesus will remain in this area of Perea until the time of the Passover. As that gets closer He will make His way back to Jerusalem and the Lamb of God who has come to take away the sins of the world will be sacrificed for us!

We are told that John the Baptist did no miracles and yet today, we see all kinds of Christians running to and fro after signs and wonders, and that is not what we are to do. In fact, it is the exact opposite of what we are to do.

Now I know that makes some people angry because they believe that is what we are to do and others come to the conclusion that there are no more signs and wonders for today.

I am not saying that there are no signs and wonders, miracles today. What I am saying is that many have it all messed up and that leads to unbiblical activity regarding signs and wonders.

We have healing services on such and such a date. Are you kidding me? Do we see that in the Bible? Absolutely not and yet some have the audacity to claim that they are going to tell God when and who will be healed!

That is so wrong.

First of all, the gifts of the Spirit are grace gifts, and we don't deserve them. And secondly, listen to what Paul tells us in I Corinthians 12:11, "**But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.**"

The Holy Spirit gives to us gifts as He sees fit, when He decides they are needed or to be done.

Secondly, and I am not going to go in-depth on this, go to our Corinthians studies or our Foundation of Faith studies if you want more information, but listen to what Mark tells us about signs and wonders as he is speaking of bringing forth the Gospel message. He wrote in Mark 16:15-18 these words of Jesus before His ascension, **“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.’”**

Did you see that? **“And these signs will follow those who believe.”**

What is my point?

My point is this. As you are serving the Lord the Holy Spirit will give to you what you need in the various situations you find yourself in. It is up to Him!

Do we see that in the Scriptures?

You bet we do. Signs and wonders following those who are serving Jesus!

We see that in Acts chapter 3 as Peter heals the lame man, a man who was lame from birth. And he was at the Temple begging for years, and I am sure that Jesus even passed him by, and nothing.

Now, all of a sudden Peter and John encounter this man, they were not looking for him, and the Holy Spirit gave Peter the faith and the gift of healing and this man stood up and walked!

Signs and wonders follow our service to the Lord, don't go looking for them, just serve!

Why do I bring this up?

Because, like I have said, John tells us that John the Baptist did no miracles!

What did he come to do?

He came preaching the Word of God, to repent and get right with God and many came to him.

He spoke of Jesus and everything that John spoke of Jesus was true. How about you?

What you share about Jesus, is it true?

Now I am not just speaking of sharing the Word of God, but your life. When people listen to what you say, what you do, are they seeing Jesus?

Remember what John said, that he wanted his life to decrease so Jesus could increase in his life or that people could see Jesus in him! (John 3:30)

Let's look at this a little closer, this man named John the Baptist and see how we are doing as we look at his life.

John didn't do any miracles, but he had a high character.

John didn't do any miracles, but he had special work to do.

John didn't do any miracles, but he had a deep and lasting influence.

John didn't do any miracles, but he won the highest praise of Jesus.

- David Guzik – John 10

Do our lives reflect the character of Jesus?

The work that we do, does it honor our Lord?

The impact we leave when we are around people, does it cause them to think about our faith, what we believe, that we are different, that we love the Lord?

Jesus said in Matthew 5:16, "**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**"

May our light, the light of Jesus shine through us and not only touch those around us but glorify our Father in heaven!

Now, keep in mind that it was the words that John spoke regarding Jesus that were true, that caused many to believe.

Never forget that! God's Word is living, and it is powerful, and it can and will transform lives just like His Word did back then, it is still working today.

It is as Isaiah 55:11 says, **“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”**

Many people are drawn to signs and wonders today and they are missing the Savior!

And this is so simple. Not only is faith begun as the Word of God is spoken, but then, after salvation, it is the Word of God that helps us to grow, to mature in the faith as we take what we have learned and apply it to our lives!

Let me show you what I mean.

First of all, the power of God's Word as Paul tells us in Romans 10:17, **“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”**

And like I have said, our faith not only begins with the Word of God coming into our hearts and the Holy Spirit transforming our lives, but we grow as we take in the Word of God, it is our nourishment, spiritual nourishment for the day!

It is as Paul tells us in II Timothy 3:16-17, **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**

Do you see the importance of the Word of God?

It tells us what is right.

It tells us what is wrong.

It shows us how to get right when we have gone off course.

And it tells us how to stay on the right path.

And in the end, it is the Word of God opened up to us by the Spirit of God that makes us complete, ready for the work that God has for us to do!

Now, as this chapter closes, we see that the hearts of the Jews, especially the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem were cold and hard, but they were open here in Perea where many came to Him, and they believed.

Make no mistake about it, I don't care how intense the opposition is, God's work will go on, it will be done!

Think about it. Jesus still faced great opposition from the religious leaders in Jerusalem, and their greatest act of opposition was just about to begin.

Yet, like I have said, many people still came to Jesus. God's work went on, despite the opposition of man. Do not be discouraged but continue on in the faith, as Paul said, "**Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**" I Corinthians 15:58.

As I begin to close, listen to these words from a pastor who wrote,

When I went through a time of questioning and wondering why I wasn't perceiving the power of the Holy Spirit moving through my life in the way I desired, I began to become somewhat disoriented in my walk - until the Lord laid this passage on me.

Jesus said the greatest prophet born in the history of the world was a man who did no miracle. None.

At that point, I realized that if I were never to see any miracle through my life, if I were never to see the power of the Spirit in a tangible way, it would be fine with me if it could be said of me what was said of John that - all the things I spoke about Jesus were true.

What's the priority of ministry?

Doing exactly what John did: talking about Jesus, pointing people to Jesus, exalting Jesus.

No wonder John was the greatest prophet of all. (Matthew 11:11).

- Jon Courson

Where are you at with the Lord?

What are you doing for the Lord?

You need to be shinning Jesus!

You see, we are called to worship Him, follow Him, obey Him! May we do so as we follow our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ!

OUR GOOD SHEPHERD IS SPEAKING, ARE WE LISTENING?