

Calvary Chapel Viewpoint

H.I.S. Men

(Honor – Integrity – Service)

Study in John

Tell Us Plainly

John 10:22–42 (ESV)

²² At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter,
²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon.
²⁴ 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.”
²⁵ 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,
²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.
²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will 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 the Father’s hand.
³⁰ I and the Father are one.”
³¹ The Jews picked up stones again to stone him.
³² Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?”
³³ 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.”
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 Scripture cannot be broken—
³⁶ 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’?
³⁷ If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me;
³⁸ 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.”
³⁹ Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.
⁴⁰ He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained.
⁴¹ And many came to him. And they said, “John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.”
⁴² And many believed in him there.

Tell Us Plainly

At this point the Lord Jesus Christ is approaching the end of His public ministry. He has been in Galilee and Judea for nearly three years and has been teaching publicly throughout that time. The eight-day feast of Dedication, now called Chanukah (or Hanukkah), the feast of Lights, was not one of the feasts prescribed in the Mosaic Law. The Jews instituted it during the inter-testamental period

What are the Jews saying in verse 24?

When the people ask Jesus to tell them if He is the Messiah, how does He respond?

Why did the Jews reject the testimony/miracles of Jesus?

What is the message of verses 27-30?

Jesus had previously said that part of the task that the Father had given Him to do was to preserve all those whom the Father gave Him (John 6:37-40). This is one of the clearest promises of the believer's security stated in God's Word. It is also a clear statement of the fact that eternal life comes to us as a gift, not as wages we earn.

Verses to consider:

- *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).*
- *“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory” (Ephesians 1:13-14).*
- *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:3-5).*

Verses 30 and 31 The scenario repeats itself. There is no doubt that these Jews understand who Jesus is saying that He is.

Note: In verse 32 Jesus says, “I have shown you many great miracles from the Father.” Jesus is all about glorifying the Father. He doesn't say “I have done many miracles.” We should be all about glorifying the Father!

How do the Jews respond in verse 33?

What does that say about them?

Verses 34-35 Jesus is quoting from Psalm 82.

- *The phrase “You are gods” (verses 1, 6) is used of the judges of Israel. They were Israel's judges and rulers who were functioning as God's representatives/deputies and so were in that sense little gods.*
- *It was a title of honor because they acted as God in their role as judges, and in God's name they exercised authority and power.*
- *Jesus is saying, “Now I, too, have been sent into this world by God the Father and I, too, have a special job. I exercise authority and power, just as the judges of Israel did. If the word ‘gods’ can be used of mere men (verse 7 states that they were mortal beings) because of their function as judges—then how much more should I be called God? Just look at the miracles/power I exercise.”*

Note: Jesus held a very high view of Scripture. He quoted it (or referred to it) often.

Verses 36-38 Jesus is making the point here that it's inconsistent for the Jews to claim the Old Testament as their authority and then to disregard something that it said because they did not agree with it.

Jesus is threatened with imminent death in verse 31 and again in verse 39. Yet they do not kill Him. Why not?

Application: My time to die is in God's hands. There is no such thing as a premature death.

- *“All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be” (Psalm 139:16).*
- *“Man's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed” (Job 14:5).*

How does that play out in our lives?

Verses 41-42 How is the testimony of John the Baptist still producing fruit?

Application: Based on the model of John the Baptist, how can I ensure my testimony lives on (not just after death but after leaving an area, etc.)? Give intentional thought to your workplace testimony. How should you conduct yourself? How do you want to be remembered? Be intentional. They will know us by our love. Show people you care—with no agenda.

We want people to be able to say such things as these about us:

- *He was involved in ministry/God's work, faithful to God's calling on his life, focused on the mission God gave him.*
- *He was willing to be different—stand out.*
- *Peer pressure didn't faze him.*
- *He pointed people to Jesus, and Jesus did not disappoint them.*

John the Baptist made it his business to speak of Christ—first, last, and always. May we do the same.
