



SESSION 44 | JOHN 10:36-43

JOHN 10:22-38 | JESUS AT THE FEAST OF DEDICATION

- Verses 22-35 included on session 43. Verses 34-35 repeated here for continuity.
- Verse 34 –
 - Jesus quoted from Psalm 82:6, **I have said, Ye *are* gods.**
 - Of interest is that Jesus said that this was **written in your law**. While the law is often seen as just the Torah, this and other verses show that the term is sometimes used in a more comprehensive manner.
 - Could this really say what it sounds like? In the context of verses 34-35, we have no choice but to take it as such.
- Verses 35-36 –
 - These verses show that Christ understood the Hebrew Scriptures to be of divine origin.
 - **word of God** - Christ viewed the Old Testament as communication from God.
 - **scripture** - Christ accepted the **word of God** in its written form
 - The verse also says, "You cannot accuse Jesus of blasphemy for calling Himself God unless you also reject Psalm 82:6.
 - Does Psalm 82:6 and John 10:34 teach that we are "gods"?
 - The word *can be* "judges," as in Exodus 21:6, or "mighty" as in Genesis 23:6.
 - However, in the context Jesus is using it, He appears to be arguing that the word "gods" meant "gods."
 - Jesus defines these "gods" as those **unto whom the word of God came** (v. 35). This appears to be a reference to the leaders of Israel, who were commissioned as Israel's "shepherds" or "judges."
 - Jesus is not saying that "we" are gods, but rather that the scripture used the word "gods" in reference to those who were accusing Jesus of blasphemy because He called Himself the "Son of God." In effect: "I only call myself "Son of God," but you uphold the scripture that calls you "gods," so are you sure you have a leg to stand on?"
 - This was a "catch 22" or a diversion tactic on our Lord's part. Jesus wasn't going to wrangle with their *words*, He wanted to prove His deity by His *actions*.
- Verses 37-38 –
 - In clear and concise words, Jesus says that His **works** must match His words. He says it with double strength when He adds, **believe the works** (v. 38).
 - The fourth Gospel is about these works. Seven works are given **that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ** (John 20:31).
 - Note that the works are to believe that He is **the Christ**. That is, the Messiah.
 - Our trust is in Jesus as our *Savior*.
 - Paul convinced Jews that Jesus was Messiah, but always presented Jesus as *Savior* to Gentiles.

- A believer today needs to understand the identity of Jesus as the Christ and the Son of God, but the greatest need is to trust that God is giving a grace-gift through Jesus Christ, and to receive that gift.
- Verse 39-40 –
 - Jesus **escaped out of their hand** (v. 39). Nothing miraculous is necessary in this escape. Jesus simply got away before they could **take him** (v. 39).
 - Jesus went **beyond Jordan** (v. 40) because it would have been out of their jurisdiction, even though it is only 20-30 miles away, to the east.
 - This took place in December (Jn. 10:22).
 - Jesus would remain “hidden” until near Passover, when He would return to Jerusalem due to the death of Lazarus, then shortly after that for His death and resurrection.
- Verse 41 –
 - Those who **resorted unto him** actually *went out to the place where He was*.
 - The word **resorted** is ἔρχομαι [erchomai], which simply means “to come.”
 - These may have been the same people who were going to to see John in the wilderness. Now they note that **John did no miracle** but the words of John about Jesus **were true**.
 - These were likely the most ready to believe.
 - They had gone to see John (presumably).
 - They had believed John without miracles.
 - They had heard “the establishment” speak against Jesus, yet followed Him anyway.
 - They were willing to leave their things to follow Jesus to a wilderness area.
- Verse 42 –
 - The word **there** is in an emphatic placement (in the *textus receptus*). That is, **there**, in the place beyond the Jordan, many believed, unlike in Jerusalem.
 - They **believed on him**, that He was the Messiah and the Son of God. They did *not* believe that Jesus would die for their sins, for even the Apostles didn’t know or believe that at this point. These **many** did not “become Christians” in the sense that we use the term.
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