

“WHO IS THIS BABY?”

John 10:19-30

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INTRODUCTION

Is Jesus God—equal in essence with God the Father?

Can I know God personally and have eternal life?

Once I have this life, can I ever be lost again?

You must know who Jesus Christ really is, and you must know what your relationship with Him is.

I. Is Jesus Demented? (19-21)

A. Some painted the worst case scenario—“He is demon-possessed and is mad.”

Therefore, why bother listening to the words of such a person (v. 20)? This is the tactic of “poisoning the well”—the fount from which the teachings originated.

B. Others (of a different sort) came to a different view

1. The words used in His speeches are not the words of one possessed.

2. The works of this man cannot be those of a demonized person.

To those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, it is obvious that Jesus is not demented.

II. IS JESUS THE MESSIAH?

A. The Circumstances (22-24)

1. The special feast—*Dedication*, or *Hanukah*, or *Lights*

a. Relation to the feast of Tabernacles mentioned in chapter 7.

b. Historical background of the feast—rededication of the altar of burnt offering by Judas Maccabeus in 165 BC after its profanation by Antiochus Epiphanes in 168 BC. See I Macc. 4:36-59; II Macc. 10:1-8.

c. Jesus’ relation to this feast.

At this feast the Jews recited other great past deliverances by God and then focused on the most recent deliverance by Judas M. So here, Jesus presents Himself as the true Deliverer of His people—bringing one final great deliverance for His people. He is here to **dedicate a new temple** to the Lord and for His people (2:19ff). God is again doing a great work for them and is bringing them out of their darkness as they celebrate their “festival of lights.”

d. The feast did not have to be observed in Jerusalem like the three pilgrim feasts; yet, many would come to Jerusalem to do so.

2. The time of the feast

a. It always occurred late in the month (25th) of Chisleu—our November-December—thus mid to late December in our calendar today. The feast lasted for 8 days.

b. It was “winter”—an obvious truth for December! Thus, the word here may stress the stormy weather currently taking place in Jerusalem and the need for shelter under the covered walkway in the temple complex.

3. The Activity of Jesus—“walking about in the temple in the portico of Solomon.”

4. The confrontation by the Jews (24)

- a. They “surrounded Him”—determined to get an answer from Him before they would let Him go!
- b. They persistently questioned Him (“were asking”).
- c. They accused Him of lack of clarity in His teaching about His person—“How long will you keep us in suspense?” (Literally, “lift up our soul, or “take away our life”!)
- d. Declare plainly if you are the Messiah—openly and fearlessly!

B. The Clear Answer (25-29)

1. I already told you (25a)

- a. He told them in his words—which are sufficiently clear for those who have ears to hear. Many of His statements lead to the conclusion that He is Messiah.
- b. He told them in His works.
 - (1) These are all of His works—but especially His miracles.
 - (2) He does these works in His Father’s name
 - (3) These works “bear witness concerning Him”

2. You are not believing.”

3. You are not my sheep (26).

This is why they are unable to believe!

4. My sheep are secure in Me (27-29)

- a. The sheep are believing—hearing and following.
- b. The Lord knows them.
- c. The Lord is giving eternal life to them—they possess it now!
- d. **They shall certainly not ever perish—forever!**
- e. They are *totally secure in the hand of the Son and of the Father* (28, 29). No one can snatch them out of either hand—like the wolf of v. 12.

NOTE THAT THERE IS NO CONSOLATION TO THE VIEW THAT PUTS THE EMPHASIS UPON MAN’S ABILITY AND FREE WILL.

- f. The flock given to the Son by the Father is the gift of highest value. There is no way that the Father, nor the Son, would allow such a gift to escape their secure grasp. **The Son and the Father hold the sheep securely because they treasure them highly!**

Notice how this statement shows the unity of essential nature of the Son and of the Father. The ability to hold the sheep is an expression of omnipotence—and both are omnipotent—therefore both share the divine nature—both are God!

III. Is Jesus God?

In verse 30, Jesus simply states clearly what He has already implied in vv. 28-29. He and the Father are one in essence—**NOT ONE IN PERSON!**

Once again Jesus answered their question by giving them more than they had asked for; He is not only the Messiah, He is God! As Westcott says, “*It is impossible to suppose that two beings distinct in essence could be equal in power.*”

CONCLUSION

Here John reverts to his opening statement of the Gospel—Jesus is God (1:1).
Do you believe it? DO you “hear His voice”? DO you “follow” Him?

If so He has given you eternal life—and you will never in no way ever forever perish!

DO YOU GET IT? Your security doesn't rest in you—it rests in the Shepherd and His Father!