

“YOU CAN’T BREAK THE BIBLE”

John 10:31-42

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Part 1

INTRODUCTION

“The Bible Stands like a rock undaunted mid the raging storms of time;
its pages burn with the truth eternal, and they glow with a light sublime.

The Bible stands like a mountain towering far above the works of men;
Its truth by none ever was refuted, and destroy it they never can.

The Bible stands and it will forever, when the world has passed away;
By inspiration it has been given, all its precepts I will obey.

The Bible stands every test we give it, for its author is divine;
By grace alone I expect to live it, and to prove it and make it mine.

The Bible stands though the hills may tumble it will firmly stand when the earth shall crumble;
I will plant my feet on its firm foundation, for the Bible stands.”

These truths are not merely the words of the hymn-writer Haldor Lillenas; they are based on the words of our Lord Jesus Christ in the passage of Scripture we look at today.

Jesus said, “The Scripture cannot be broken.” What did He mean by that, and how did He apply this truth to the discussion He was having with the Jewish leaders who were rejecting Him and His teaching?

Jesus had just claimed to be God—equal in His essential nature with God the Father (v. 30). The Jewish leaders had demanded that He openly declare one way or the other whether He was the Messiah (v. 24). He did one better; He declared openly that He was God! He also pointed out to them that the reason they could not believe in Him is that they were not His sheep (26).

He knows His sheep—and he doesn’t “know” these men (27).

His sheep “hear His voice and they follow Him (27).

He gives eternal life to His sheep; there is no way possible that they will ever perish (28).

No one is able to “snatch” them out of His or His Father’s hands (28-29).

These are some of the most profound truths in the entire Bible! How would these people react to these truths?

Well, some continued to reject Him—even attempting to kill him or arrest Him; they refused to believe on His works, accept the authority of the Bible, and believe on His person.

Others accepted Him—believing the testimony of His servants and of the Scriptures and accepting the divine origin of His works.

Will you acknowledge His WORKS, accept the authority of the SCRIPTURES, and trust in His PERSON—the only begotten Son of God who is the Savior?

THE BIBLE HAS SPOKEN; JESUS ACCEPTED THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE. YOU AND I MUST ALSO ACCEPT THE BIBLE'S AUTHORITY AND ACCEPT THE PERSON OF WHOM IT SPEAKS—JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD.

I. HUMAN RESPONSES TO JESUS (31-33, 39; 40-42)

The human heart can be very hard and stubborn. People who are in a desperate condition and have no human solution to their problems still often reject the only Person who can provide the true answer to their dilemma—Jesus Christ. So it is here with the Jewish leaders—**whose nation** is in distress and will shortly be utterly destroyed by the Roman armies; **whose own souls** are spiritually dead and lifeless; **whose own religious practice** is lifeless and dead and utterly legalistic; **whose future** is hopeless and desperate.

Why do people reject the solution to their problems? Why do we continue to follow the same deadly path of ruin and destruction? Because the heart is “deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.” The Savior is the only one who can deliver us from our hopeless state; How will we respond to Him?

How did these people respond?

A. Rejection by the Leaders of the Nation (31-33; 39)

1. Their attempt to stone Jesus (31-33)

Literally “carry, bear, carry away”. No stones in Solomon’s colonnade. Likely they found them where the construction still took place. This implies some effort and persistence in their efforts to kill Jesus!

“Again”—See 8:59, a previous attempt.

Talmudic law at times even encouraged “lynchings” like this (Morris notes)

a. Jesus’ calm question—He displayed no fear, and did not attempt to flee!

(1) I have done nothing wrong—implied here. (Notice “answered”)

(2) I have **showed** many “good works” (*these were signs!*)

“good”=*beautiful*, like the “good” Shepherd

The works primarily refer to His *miracles* which bear striking evidence of the validity of His claims.

The works are “*from the Father*”—through His power, with His blessing, and to His glory.

He has done *many* such works.

(3) For which of these do you attempt to stone Me. (that seems to be the idea of the verb tense (present)—the stoning did not start yet.

The word “which” involves the character of the works.

b. The Callous answer of the Jewish leaders

(1) Not for a good work (beautiful)

(2) For blasphemy (cf. Lev. 24:16)

[On the contemporary position of stoning for blasphemy, see Morris notes—they were desperate to rid themselves of Jesus; there was a broader view of blasphemy at that time based on Num. 15:30-31 & Dt. 21:22.]

The essence of the blasphemy in their book is that He, **although a mere man**, (in their estimation) makes Himself to be God. Notice that they did accurately assess the implication of His teaching—HE IS GOD! Compare 8:58-59: “I AM” (They tried to stone Him.); 5:17-18—He called God His own Father, thereby making Himself equal with God.

In reality, the opposite is true. Although He was God, He made Himself to be man!

2. Their Attempt to Arrest Jesus (39)

To seize—as at 7:30; no longer to stone Him.

No evidence of a supernatural escape here.

He eluded their grasp—literally, “He went out from their hand.”

- **Notice the irony here. He went out from their hand, but they were powerless to take His sheep out of His hand (or the Father’s—vv. 28-29).**

B. Acceptance By the Pereans (40-42)

1. Back to His beginnings (40) (3-4 month interval between Dedication and Passover—late December –mid-April.) Mt. 19:1—ministry in Perea.

a. Again—see 1:28

b. Place—likely Bethany; about 50 miles from Jerusalem; 13 miles south of Sea of Galilee; 20 miles southeast of Nazareth.

c. The Place where John was baptizing formerly, or at first. John started near the Dead Sea in the wilderness of Judea and gradually worked his way up the Jordan valley.

d. The place where Jesus was baptized—the beginning of His ministry. His public ministry ends where it began!

e. He stayed there. (Some time was spent in Bethany—ch. 11—and at Ephraim (11:54).

2. Basis for Belief (41)

He may have left the center of influence and population, but His popularity did not wane: “Many came to Him”, and “Many believed on Him”.

a. The testimony of John toward Messiah.

(1) John did no miracles (a remarkable statement helping to confirm the validity of the miracles of Jesus; why not claim miracles or John?)

(2) Everything John said about Jesus was true!

His works may not have been powerful, but his words were very powerful and truthful. Notice the “*everything*.”

Notice that after all of this time, they still remembered the words of

- John the Baptist concerning Jesus (cf. 1:19-36; 3:22-36; 5:33).
- b. The miraculous signs of the Messiah—implied here by contrast.
3. Belief in the Messiah (This is the expression usually used for genuine saving faith, involving the entrusting of oneself to the Lord.)

The language of invitation is used throughout this section (chapters 7-10)

See 7:37; 8:11; 10:38.

Invitation implied in 7:17-38; 8:12, 31, 32, 36, 51; 9:35-37; 10:1-18, 27-30.

CONCLUSION

Note that all John said about Jesus came true. Likewise, **all that the Bible said about Jesus has come true. You must believe what God has said concerning His Son.**

Jesus earnestly invites sinners to come to Himself!

He asks them to “embrace Him by a living faith.”

He holds forth blessings and thus shows them they need to come to Him.

What about you. What is holding you back?

We made the observation at the beginning about how stubborn people can be—even when in desperate circumstances. What will it take for you to surrender to Him?

For salvation?

For holiness?

For victorious Christian living?

What are you waiting for? Jesus has shown Himself to you; He is sufficient; He is willing!

ARE YOU?