

The Gospel of John

The Final Invitation

John 10:32-42

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we are continuing with the Gospel of John. We are in the tenth chapter. This is a turning point as you know in John's history. This is the chapter that records the last account that John gives of the public ministry of Jesus. At the end of this tenth chapter, Jesus goes away for about three months, and He spends the time to give final critical time with His disciples. This is John's last chance to provide ultimate proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

John 20:30-31 (NASB)

³⁰ Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

John is amassing evidence that you might believe, in order that you might have eternal life that only comes through faith in Christ.

Although John and the rest of scripture make it clear that God is sovereign (He has the right and ability of having supreme power and authority), he also makes it clear that each of us truly has the free will to believe in Christ. I believe fully that each of us has the responsibility to repent and believe. But I believe as well, fully, in the sovereign purpose of God who has chosen His sheep, knows His sheep, and calls His sheep by name. They hear Him, they come, Christ receives them, and keeps them, and raises them on the last day. It is nearly impossible for us with our finite minds to comfortably harmonize those two realities. Because of this, it is easy for us to feel uncomfortable about our salvation. What if God does not choose me?

The intent of this message is to insure that even though God is sovereign and has known since the foundation of the world who will be saved, it is still God's desire that each of us will hear His Word and turn to Him. We will see many of the miracles that not only Jesus has done to prove that what He is saying and claiming is from God, but we will also see how God and the Holy Spirit played their part in miracles as well to convince us that Jesus was indeed the Son of God.

All Stand and Read Scripture

John 10:32-42 (NASB)

³² Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" ³³ The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out *to be* God." ³⁴

Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? ³⁵ If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), ³⁶ do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? ³⁷ If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸ but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.” ³⁹ Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp.

⁴⁰ And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He was staying there. ⁴¹ Many came to Him and were saying, “While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true.” ⁴² Many believed in Him there.

Prayer

BODY:

I. GOOD WORKS FROM THE FATHER.

John 10:32-33 (NASB)

³² Jesus answered them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?” ³³ The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out *to be* God.”

And so immediately, we go from His claim that “**I and the Father are one**” at the end of verse 31 to, “**The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.**”

Then Jesus answers them in verse 32 which seems to stop them in their tracks with the stones in their hands. They picked them up. They are holding them. They are ready to knock Him over and crush out His life in a furious hail of rocks and he asked them “**I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning me?**” The majestic calm here is really amazing.

When He asks for which miracle they are stoning Him for, He shifts their thoughts from His claim of being equal with the Father to the miracles which they cannot deny.

They knew His miracles were not natural or human so they had to determine how He was performing them. They knew there was a supernatural power behind Him. The problem in their unbelieving minds was that the miracles that He performs must be by the power of Beelzebul. So they declared that He was demonic.

The problem was that He did not do bad works, evil works, or the kinds of things that come from the side of Satan. Jesus said, “**I showed you many good works.**” His miracles were wonders of joy, giving sight to blind people, and hearing to deaf people, and a voice to those who were mute and new life to the dead. They were just unparalleled miracles of wonder and beauty.

So for which of them are you stoning Me? This just stops them. They have an answer. They said, “**For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.**” We are stoning You for blasphemy. And a blasphemer, based on the Mosaic law, is to be stoned. They thought they were carrying

out their righteous duty. So, you are a blasphemer because You, being a man, which is not in question because Jesus was fully man, make Yourself out to be God, which in their minds is the ultimate and extreme blasphemy. So, they feel their religious duty to crush out His life at that very moment. The problem was that Jesus was also fully God.

Jesus did not expect to be believed merely on His own assertions. Since He did the same things that the Father does, His enemies should consider this in their evaluation of Him. Jesus is really saying, you know that no one but God can do these miracles. He also says, if you don't believe me, you cannot deny the miracles I have done. Then He says, don't you understand that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

Then Jesus causes them to have to think by quoting from the Old Testament. Look at verse 34.

II. ACCURACY OF THE SCRIPTURE.

John 10:34-36 (NASB)

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Has it not been written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'?" ³⁵ If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), ³⁶ do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"

Can you set aside your fury, the emotion, and the hate for just a moment and consider the Old Testament scripture? Why are you so inflamed that I am calling Myself God? When in your own scripture, men are called gods.

Wow! This shows the complete knowledge that Jesus knew concerning the scriptures, which would be unparalleled in any human being who ever lived, to scour in an instant the Old Testament and pluck out an **obscure** section from the psalms.

Jesus is quoting from Psalm 82. This Psalm is a judgment by God on the **rulers** of Israel.

Psalm 82:1-8 (NASB)

¹ God takes His stand in His own congregation; (God shows up in Israel, and He's not happy.) He judges in the midst of the **rulers**. (So we are talking about rulers. And by the way, rulers were judges. They ruled on issues and solved problems.) ² How long will you judge unjustly And show partiality to the wicked? Selah. (In other words, you are partial to the wicked because of your corruption) ³ Vindicate the weak and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and destitute. (You are supposed to be their protectors.) ⁴ Rescue the weak and needy; Deliver *them* out of the hand of the wicked. (That is what you are supposed to be doing.)

⁵ They do not know nor do they understand; They walk about in darkness; All the foundations of the earth are shaken. (Everything that holds together society is falling apart because there is no justice.) ⁶ I said, "**You are gods, And all of you are sons of the Most High.**"

What does He mean? He means look, small G. You are gods. Because you are the representatives of the one true God. You are God's agents in the world. You are the sons of the Most High. He has delegated authority to you, and you receive His Word.

This is what Jesus is relating to them in John 10. If He called them gods to whom the Word of God came, they were the ones who were to teach, and apply, and uphold the Word of God. If corrupt judges were called gods, why do you say I am blaspheming when I say, 'I am the Son of God'?

III. REASONS TO BELIEVE.

Then He asks them to make a comparison. He says...

John 10:37-38 (NASB)

37 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."

This is an amazing argument. He goes right into the Old Testament to make His case. Certainly, if the term "gods" could be applied to corrupt rulers, it's not a stretch for the incorruptible, perfect, sinless, righteous, Son of God to be called God. Consider what you are doing before you start throwing stones.

This is a final invitation from Jesus to the Jews in Jerusalem to accept Him as the Messiah. How does Jesus prove that He is God? It is by His works or miracles.

You can call me a blasphemer because of My words, but you cannot possibly call me a blasphemer if you look at My works. Believe the works, so you may know and understand. The only way to eternal life is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, to believe He is God in human flesh.

John 10:39 (NASB)

39 Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp.

At this point, it really did not matter what He said. They were fixed in their unbelief. And they would scream for His blood until they see the Romans nail Him to a cross. They had the same response that they had back in verse 31. This time, they tried to seize Him again for the same reason: to stone Him to death. But it wasn't possible. Why? Because His hour had not come.

The eternal fate of these Jews are pretty bleak at this point. Although Jesus has offered a final invitation in person, He has not yet made His final curtain call.

John 10:40 (NASB)

40 And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He was staying there.

It says Jesus left Jerusalem. We know that He will now be spending approximately three months in intense training with the twelve disciples.

Where did He go? He went to an area East and Northeast of the Sea of Galilee. He went beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing. This is where He had been baptized of John. John the Baptist had been a messenger from God, preparing the way for Jesus. What is interesting is that where John the Baptist began his ministry is where Jesus ended His.

John 10:41-42 (NASB)

⁴¹ Many came to Him and were saying, "While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true." ⁴² Many believed in Him there.

John was not a healer; he was a baptizer. Jesus was the healer. Many in this area believed that everything John said about this man was true.

There is a good delightful ending to this chapter. There are not only rejecters, but there are also receivers of the truth. They have heard John, and they have seen Christ, and they have seen what Christ has done. These are the people who saw the miracles and believed they were from God, and John's ministry comes to fruition long after he was dead. There was the echo of what he said about Jesus that was proven true through the works of Christ. And as a result, "**Many believed in Him there.**" And to as many as received Him, He gave the right to be called the sons of God, even to those who believed on His name.

That is it. That is the final public exposure. Jesus stayed out there with His disciples and with the gathering believers until it was time to go back to Jerusalem to die for our salvation on the cross.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus came to this earth to seek and save those who are lost. In His final invitation, He gave us reasons to believe in Him. If you still have any doubt as to your free will to accept Christ, due to the sovereignty of God who **chooses** those who will be saved, consider the following:

Do you remember that I said that the eternal fate of many of the Jews were pretty bleak? They were still going to receive one more chance. Jesus had offered a final invitation in person, but He had not yet made His **final curtain call**. What was that curtain call? He still had to die on the cross. God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit were all going to provide even more convincing miracles to validate that **this truly was the Son of God!**

Do you know what they were? Let's look at Matt. 27:45-54.

Verse 45 tells us that darkness came over all the land while Jesus hung on the cross from noon on until 3 pm.

Verses 50-51 tells us that at the very moment that Jesus breathed his last breath, the Temple veil that covered the entrance to the Holy of Holies split in two from top to bottom. This veil was about 60 feet tall and up to 4" in thickness. This miracle from God signified that we no longer needed a High Priest. We can now enter God's presence through Christ Himself.

Verse 51 also tells us that there was a huge earthquake and rocks were split at the very time Christ died.

Verses 52-53 tells us that graves opened up in Jerusalem and saints came out after the resurrection and appeared to many people.

Matthew 27:54 (NASB)

⁵⁴ Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, **“Truly this was the Son of God!”**

Many other people, no doubt, felt the same way. As convincing as things were to everyone, the ultimate miracle was yet to happen. Jesus was buried in a tomb and on the third day **HE AROSE FROM THE DEAD!**

Then the Gospels and Acts tell us that Jesus appeared to several women at the tomb, the eleven disciples, and over 500 other people after the resurrection for a period of forty days. This was positive proof that He had risen from the dead.

Then He ascended into Heaven in front of the eleven Apostles promising that He would not leave them as orphans. Nine days later, the Holy Spirit arrived on the Day of Pentecost. The Apostles spoke to the people using their own language, but the Holy Spirit miraculously modified their speech and allowed the crowd to hear in their own language.

Peter preached to the Jews that day. No doubt, many of them, just over a month earlier had cried out "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" **But God's sovereign desire is that all men everywhere would be saved.** He provided ample proof through miracles that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. Of course many, by their own free will, will still reject Jesus and will be accountable for their decision. Listen to the conclusion **of** and the reaction **to** Peter's sermon.

Acts 2:36-38 (NASB)

³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” ³⁸ Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And then the fantastic results:

Acts 2:41 (NASB)

⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

The compelling question here is obvious: do you believe? It starts with believing in Jesus as the Son of God. That is the gospel. Do you believe that the miracles of Jesus were supernatural? Remember, even God and the Holy Spirit performed miracles to prove His claims. The fact that miracles were performed is not debatable. If they are supernatural, they had to come from heaven or hell. Do you believe that the miracles were from Satan? If you don't, then He had to be God. And if He is God, then you must believe that He was the Messiah. It is blasphemy to deny Him, to reject Him, and it cuts you off forever from eternal life. If you believe, you receive salvation. Eternal life, forgiveness of sins, a place in God's family, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and everlasting joy in the presence of God.

This is the Day.