

Dr. Jerry Nelson and Dori Sear

Jesus, the Christ

1. (v. 10:22-26) “The Feast of Dedication, now known as Hanukkah, was established as a memorial to the purification and rededication of the temple by Judas Maccabeus in 165 B.C., after its profanation three years earlier by Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Antiochus, the king of Syria, had captured Jerusalem, plundered the temple treasury, and sacrificed a sow to Jupiter on the temple altar.” (NIV Bible Commentary)

What did the Jews want to know?

What should have convinced them of who he is?

What reason does Jesus give as to why they don't believe?

Read John 6:47 - The Jews called themselves “God's chosen people.” What must Jesus mean when he says they are not his sheep?

2. (v. 10:27-30) In verses 25-26 Jesus said to those listening that they did not believe, and that they were not his sheep. Now in verse 27 what two things do Jesus' sheep do?

What does Jesus do for his sheep and what security do they have?

What guarantees the sheep's security? See Romans 8:38-39.

3. (v. 10:31-33) Read 10:30 – For what reason do the Jews say they planned to kill Jesus?

Think about it: In light of Jesus' miracles, the testimony of John the Baptist, the testimony of the Old Testament and the testimony of the Father at Jesus' baptism, why was it so hard for the Jews to accept that Jesus was the Messiah? Why is it so hard for people today? See also John 8:43 and 6:47.

4. (v. 10:34-36) Think about it: If Jesus quotes from Psalm 82:6 and then refers to that passage as part of the “Law,” what books of the Old Testament must the Law include? Also, be impressed with Jesus' knowledge and recall of the Old Testament scriptures.

Why Jesus uses this quote from the Psalms is difficult to understand, but how does Jesus use it? What is his point in using it?

5. (v. 10:37-38) Re-read verses 10:30 and 10:33. In verse 37, what are they to believe?

On what basis does Jesus call them to believe?

What conclusion should they draw about Jesus?

6. (v. 10:39-42) Many times the Jews tried to seize Jesus to kill him. (See 10:31; 8:59; 8:20; 7:44; 7:30-32; 7:1; 5:16) Why were they unsuccessful? (See 10:18)

What was the testimony of the people “across the Jordan” and what was the result?

Personal Reflection

Like those of Jesus’ day, many people today say they want God to manifest himself; then they would believe. What do you think they are looking for? What would convince them to believe? Do they really want God to manifest himself? Do you think that with evidence before them, they really would believe? Why or why not?

Jesus talked openly about himself and his relationship with the Father. In v. 24 the Pharisees asked Jesus to tell them plainly who he was/is and end the “suspense.” What was the suspense? Why did it exist?

People are often puzzled by the gospel message. They don’t often need more facts or more proof. What do they need?

Describe the internal tension that exists when known truth is willfully disregarded. What might be some of the results of this kind of tension? What brings eventual peace?

Are you a “sheep”? Do you believe and trust in Jesus? If not, what is hindering your acceptance that Jesus is the Son of God? What comfort and hope is there for you in v. 27-29? Spend some time worshiping in response to that hope.

Prayer Response

If you are not currently in a Small Group, we encourage you to discuss your reflection questions with a family member or a close friend. Previous lessons are available on-line at www.sgc.org/John.

If you would like to be part of a Small Group, please contact Dori Sear at dsear@sgc.org

