



March 2, 2025
Jesus at the Festivals
THE FEAST OF DEDICATION
John 10:22-39



1. **Opening Discussion Questions:** (in a group setting, you may not want to use all of these)
 - a. Other than Christmas and Thanksgiving, what is your favorite American holiday? Why do you like it, and what do you traditionally do to celebrate? Do you spend much time thinking about the holiday's historical significance, or are you more focused on modern-day celebrations and entertainment/recreation?
 - b. What do expressions such as “your actions speak louder than your words” and “if you are going to talk the talk, you need to walk the walk” mean to you? Have you ever used such an expression, perhaps with your children? Do you agree or disagree with the sentiment involved? Why?
2. **Sermon Outline/Key Points**
 - a. As the Consecrated Christ of God, Jesus Fulfilled the Feast of Dedication
 - i. Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication, celebrates the reconsecration of God's Temple
 - ii. Yes, Jesus IS the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One of God!
 - b. Jesus the Son Is One with God the Father
 - i. Jesus is God and One with God
 - ii. The crowd was furious but Jesus pointed to the evidence of His divine unity with God the Father
 - c. Rest Assured in the Hand of Jesus!
 - i. Those who are in Christ can't be taken from Him
 - ii. Let His promise comfort you in stressful, challenging, painful times
3. **Study/Discussion Points:**
 - a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon, set aside some time to ponder these questions prayerfully:
 - i. What one thing stood out most to you in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
 - iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
 - iv. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
 - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

b. Monday:

- i. Read John 10:1-21 as background for the passage being studied this week.
- ii. What contrasts does Jesus set up in His opening parable in verses 1–5?
- iii. What do you think each of these images might represent (remember, though, that not everything in a parable necessarily has a meaning): the sheep pen, the Shepherd, the thief, the sheep, the gate, or the hired hand?
- iv. What two phrases does Jesus use to describe Himself? What different things do we learn about Jesus from these two titles?
- v. What are the two things Jesus tells the Pharisees that are significant aspects of His mission on earth (see verses 10b and 15b)?
- vi. What does Jesus reveal about the flock in verse 16 that is particularly important to us?
- vii. Why do you think Jesus stresses that He will lay down His life voluntarily and at His time (verses 17-18)?
- viii. Jesus said that because of Him, we might have abundant life (verse 10). What qualities in your life might convince an unbeliever that you possess the full life Jesus spoke about? How might you experience this abundant life to a greater degree?
- ix. What was the response to what Jesus said in verses 1-18? How is this response different from what was recorded in John 8:30 that we studied last week?

c. Tuesday:

- i. Read the focal passage, John 10:22-39 several times (using different translations if possible).
 1. What are the main points in these verses?
 2. Which of Jesus' statements do you feel is most significant in your life?
 3. How would you describe the atmosphere as the events unfold in these verses?
- ii. What setting information does John provide in verses 22-23?
 1. The Feast of Dedication, also known as Hanukkah or the Feast of Lights, commemorated the reconsecration of the temple by Judas Maccabeus in 165 or 164 BC after its desecration when the king of Syria conducted pagan worship there by sacrificing pigs on the altar. If you can access a Bible that includes the Apocryphal books (such as the NRSV and some KJV), you can read about it in 1 Maccabees 4:41-49 and 2 Maccabees 10:1-8. (Remember, these should be read as historical information, not God's Word.)
 2. Why do you think John felt it necessary to tell us it was winter? How much time has elapsed since the events at the Feast of Tabernacles considered for the past three weeks?
 3. The colonnade of Solomon on the east side of the Temple was a roofed area that provided protection from the sun or bad weather. It was a popular place for teaching, and the early Christians met there. Read Acts 3:11 and 5:12.
- iii. The word in verse 24, translated as "gathered," can also mean "surrounded" (see the CSB), which is how it is used to describe an encircling army in other passages. What does that suggest about the Jews' true motive for questioning Jesus (John frequently uses "Jews" to refer to the leaders)? Do you think that they really wanted to know if Jesus was the Messiah, or did they have some ulterior motive?

d. Wednesday:

- i. Read and meditate on Jesus' response to the Jews in verses 25-30.
 1. What are the two ways Jesus says He has already answered their question?
 - a. How do Jesus' remarks in John 5:31-36 and 14:11 reflect similar answers?
 - b. Which does it seem Jesus sees as the more compelling answer?
 - c. Read Isaiah 35:3-6. How should these verses have helped the Jews accept Jesus as Messiah?
 2. After responding to their question, what does Jesus do in verse 26?
 - a. What do we tend to say a person must do to be part of His flock? How does Jesus turn that around?
 - b. Based on this verse, do you think it is more accurate to say, "We believe to become God's sheep" or "We believe because we are God's sheep"? Compare John 8:47, 6:37-39, and 17:2, 6, 9, & 24.
 - c. What should this teaching cause all Believers to do regularly and sincerely?
- ii. What does Jesus mean when He says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." (verse 27)?
 1. Do you think Jesus just talks about following Him to be saved, or does He mean more?
 2. Read John 14:15, 21, & 23, 15:10, 1 John 2:3-5, 3:22-24, 5:3, and 2 John 6. What do these verses seem to say is a requirement of following Him?

e. Thursday:

- i. Read the focal passage, John 10:22-39 again today, focusing on verses 28-29. Meditate on these 3 verses, considering what they mean to you and their effect on your Christian life.
 1. What two or three things does Jesus promise in verse 28, and to whom does this promise apply? Which promise means the most to you?
 2. Is Jesus just being redundant for emphasis, or do you think "eternal life" and "never perish" have different meanings or applications?
 3. What does the last half of verse 28 guarantee if you are a Christian?
 - a. Who is included in the phrase "no one"? Who or what is excluded?
 - b. Read Romans 8:31-39. What light does Paul shed to help us understand Jesus' promise?
- ii. On what does Jesus ground this extremely important promise?
 1. How meaningful would it have been if He had made it as just a man? Would you have believed it?
 2. Combining what Jesus says in verse 29 and John 6:37-40 what do we learn about the relationship between God the Father and God the Son in securing our salvation?
 3. Spend a few minutes contemplating what it would mean if, in fact, someone could snatch something from the Father's hand.

f. **Friday:**

- i. Read John 10:30-39.
- ii. Meditate on the implications of verse 30.
 1. Many in our liberal society maintain that Jesus never said that He was divine. What does Jesus say? (This is probably the most explicit affirmation of Jesus' divinity in the Bible and a verse every Christian should know.)
 2. What do the subsequent verses show that the Jews understood Jesus to say? Why would we doubt what Jesus meant if they understood it so clearly?
- iii. What do the Jew's actions in verses 31 and 39 suggest about their motive for confronting Jesus in verse 24?
- iv. In verses 34-36, Jesus confronts them with Scripture by quoting Psalm 82. Read Psalm 82.
 1. What kind of people is God addressing in this Psalm?
 2. What were they doing according to verse 2? What should they have done according to verses 3-4?
 3. According to verse 5, how do these gods differ from the true God?
 4. What "proof" does Jesus offer for claiming "I am God's Son"?
 5. How does verse 38 reinforce Jesus' claim in verse 30?

g. **Saturday:**

- i. Read the entire focal passage, John 10:22-39, again today.
- ii. Have you ever tried to share the Gospel with someone who was so opposed to Christ that all they wanted to do was prove you were wrong? What lessons can we learn from Jesus' encounters with the Jews in this passage that we could apply in such situations?
 1. What did Jesus do in verse 34 when confronted with hardened opposition? What does that teach us we need to have done if we are going to respond similarly (see Psalm 119:11a)?
 2. What did Jesus do in verse 39 when confronted with the same opposition? (see 2 Timothy 2:23).

4. Application:

- a. This week's passage contains two key teachings that Christians need to know and apply. First, we must have a true and accurate understanding of who Jesus is. He is the Second Person of the Trinity, fully God, one with the Father (verse 30), and existing in perfect unity with the Father (verse 38) for all eternity. Any lesser view of Christ is heresy.
- b. Secondly, we must be assured that He can and will use the full power of God to fulfill His promise of forgiveness and eternal life—nothing can separate us from Him.

5. Prayer Points:

- a. Adoration – Psalms 8:1 and 29:1-2
- b. Confession – Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10
- c. Thanksgiving – Psalms 95:1-2 and 100:4-5
- d. Supplications – Matthew 21:22 and John 16:19