

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

GFT-26 "ONE WITH THE FATHER"

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JOHN 10:28-30 *I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.*

Jesus' confrontations with the Jewish Leaders show over and over that they just did not want to accept the proofs of His Person: that He was both the Son of Man and the Son of God. Our culture is much the same. Because they don't want to believe, they discount what is said, re-interpret it, or discard it altogether. To them, Scripture holds no authority.

It is somewhat encouraging that Jesus faced these "same people" during His earthly ministry. But He never gave up, changed His teaching to appease them, or softened His proclamations so as to not to be offensive. We desire the same resolve today!

JOHN 10:22-24 *At that time the FEAST OF DEDICATION took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."*

What does it take for some people to finally, "get it?"

- **10:22) The Feast of Dedication** – What we call today, "HANUKKAH" –
 - Often called the "FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS" it was a celebration of the miraculous burning of the lamps in the Temple during the "8 Days" of the rededication of the Temple (164BC) after the "Desecration" by Antiochus Epiphanes exactly 3 years previous (167BC). [This event is recorded in the Inter-Testimonial Book, 2 Maccabees 10:1–8] This is why the "Menorah" is 8-branched instead of the 7-branched Lampstand of the Tabernacle / Temple.
 - This would be about 2-months after Jesus' encounter with the Jewish Leaders in **JOHN 7:1-10:21**. Where He has been is not revealed, but either in the area of Galilee or in the Trans-Jordan region
- **10:23) Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon...** [Solomon's Porch]
 - Jesus was not concerned that He would once again be confronted... He walked boldly into the area of the Temple where the Jews would gather to "debate" the Scriptures (East-side)
 - It is probable the Jews had been waiting for Him... desiring to attempt once again to "discredit" Him in the eyes of the crowds drawn to Him because of His teaching and ministry...
- **10:24a) So the Jews gathered around him...** – Lit: "closed in (ekyklōsan) so as to surround Him"
 - We would say, They "pounced-on" Him... It implies that they were NOT satisfied with what Jesus had said before, and they were encompassing Him almost as a "pack of wolves"
 - The hostile Jerusalem leaders were determined to pin Him down, so they surrounded Him – they were not going to let Him get away...
- **10:24b) ...and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? IF you are the Christ, tell us plainly."**
 - They certainly were not interested in "learning" from Him... It is almost "comical" how much they refused to "hear" what Jesus had been saying... How He had answered their repeated questions...

- **“IF...”** The Greek form of this passage implies *“If... and we assume from what you have said that you are...the Christ...”* – They give themselves away with this accusatory question...
- **OBVIOUSLY**, they HAD heard Him say that He was The MESSIAH [The CHRIST] ... He just didn't say it the way they WANTED Him to say it...
- **“Tell us plainly...”** – Thus far, Jesus had not said directly, **“I am the MESSIAH”** – *although other's did...*
 - Jesus declined to use the word **CHRISTOS (MESSIAH)** previously as He did now because of the political bearing of the word in their minds... *A new King to conquer and overrule the Romans*
 - The populace in Galilee had once tried to make him king in opposition to Pilate (Joh 6:14f.)
 - When Jesus does confess on oath before Caiaphas that he is the Christ the Son of God (Mk 14:61f.; Mt 26:63f.), the Sanhedrin instantly vote him guilty of blasphemy...

○ **What Jesus HAD said:**

- HE told Nicodemus, a Pharisee, and a ruler of the Jews, that HE was *the Son of Man* who came down from heaven (3:13–14).
- Following the healing of the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda Jesus told ‘the Jews’ *the works he did were the works of his Father*, and they sought to kill him because, by so saying, **HE was making himself equal with God** (5:16–18).
- Jesus told them *God had entrusted all judgment to him* and *granted him to have life in himself so that HE could raise the dead*, both of which are divine prerogatives (5:22, 24–26).
- During the Feast of Tabernacles, HE told ‘the Jews’ that *HE knew God* and *had been sent by God* (7:28–29).
- HE also publicly invited those who were thirsty *to come to him and drink, promising to give them the streams of living water of which the Scriptures spoke* (7:37–38).
- HE told ‘the Jews’ that *‘before Abraham was born, I am’* (8:58), appropriating for himself **the divine name**.
- HE *presented himself as the good shepherd* (11, 14), identifying himself with God who, in the OT, is **the shepherd of Israel**.
- **Despite all these things**, JESUS said, *“you do not believe...”*

➤ **10:25a) Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe.”**

- It would be better stated, **“You refuse to believe...”** They would not change and did not want to...
- From the start of Jesus ministry, there were only a few who profess their belief... Many crowds followed, but we do not know the depth of their “belief”

➤ **10:25b) “The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me...”**

- It was not only what Jesus had said that revealed who HE was; **it was also the things HE did:**
- HE performed **many miracles in Jerusalem** (alone) but still ‘the Jews’ refused to believe
 - **JOHN 2:23** *Now when HE was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs that HE was doing.*
 - **JOHN 3:2** *This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”*
 - **JOHN 7:21 & 23** - *“I did one work, and you all marvel at it... are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man’s whole body whole?”*

- **JOHN 7:31** - *Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, “When the Christ appears, will HE do more signs than this man has done?”*
 - **JOHN 9:16** - *Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them.*
- **10:26)** *“...but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.”*
 This passage is not presenting what is commonly referred to as **“Sovereign Election”** – that God “sovereignly chooses” those whom HE will save.
 They are the ONLY ones who CAN be saved...
 ALL others are “sovereignly consigned to Hell... They CANNOT be saved... They CANNOT believe...”
- **“DO not believe...”** not cannot... – **They** are the ones making the choice to believe or not...
 - Over and over the NT proclaims the importance of the individual making the CHOICE to believe...
 - *“All who believe... IF you believe... To HEAR and believe... THEY believed... HOW shall they believe...” Whosoever BELIEVES...*
- **10:27)** *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”*
- Jesus made it clear in the first part of John 10 that HIS sheep are the ones who “hear His voice”
 - HE is the **“Door of the Sheepfold”** - No one enters except by Him...
 - HE is the **“Good Shepherd”** ... laying-down His life for them...
 - He **knows** them... He **calls** them... and **they follow** His voice...
- **10:28a)** *“I give them Eternal Life...”*
- I **give**... “ETERNAL LIFE” – NOT “will give...” – It is a **“present possession / reality”**
 - It is NOT **temporal**... subject to **time / change / condition**
 - Some say, **“Everlasting Life...”** It HAS a beginning (*when you believed*) but it has NO ending...
- **10:28b)** *“...and they will never perish...”*
- **Shall never...** – This is a unique Verb form preceded by a “double negative – “Not never...” which intensifies the power of the verb – **“It can NOT NEVER be able to be done...”**
 - Also, the verb is in the **Greek “Middle Voice”** ... something that is done **for ones own benefit** (*which here makes no sense*) OR that which **“is done TO oneself”**
 - **Perish...** – **“Apollumi”** – **to perish, to be lost, ruined, destroyed** – this is a very strong word for destroy carrying the emphasis that it is a total, utter destruction – NOT to be recovered from...
 - His Sheep, who have Eternal Life, can **never at all** ... **bring / cause themselves** to come to **a place of destruction, ruin, or be lost... NOT NEVER...**
- **10:28c)** *“...and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”*
- Unlike the habit of the Jews, they cannot be taken “away from the fold” (God’s people)
 - **NO ONE** has the power to remove those who belong to Christ...

- **10:29) “My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”**
- **10:30) “I and the Father are one...”**
 - **There is NO difference... What belongs to Jesus belongs to the Father...**
 - **What Jesus protects... the Father protects...**
 - **The word “one” used here indicates that they are “one in purpose / one in function / one in union... NOT “One in person”**