

Word and Work

John 10:22-42

I. Introduction

A. Lumo video on John 10 dramatized?

II. John 10:19-42

A. [19] There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. [20] Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?" [21] Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

1. These two verses summarize the way that people respond to Jesus.
2. They saw the same miracles. They heard the same teachings. One says he is evil, another says he is possessed, another ponders if he is from God
3. *William Barclay wrote, "Either Jesus was a megalomaniac madman, or he was the Son of God." By what we know of Jesus, is it fair to say that He was a madman?*
 - a) The words of Jesus were not the words of a madman; instead, they are supreme sanity and abundant life (John 10).
 - b) The deeds of Jesus were not the deeds of a megalomaniac; instead, they were utterly unselfish.
 - c) The effect of Jesus wasn't the effect of a madman; instead, He has changed millions for the good.

B. [22] 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.

1. Hannukah → a time to remember when God rescued the Jews from Seleucid Empire in a revolt led by Judah Maccabee - rededicate temple
2. Ironic that in Jesus' day, the temple and Judaism is corrupt again, not because of pagan rulers, but because of "evil shepherds and hired hands."
 - a) The Good Shepherd will rededicate the temple by destroying it and rebuilding it in three days (which is his body)
 - b) He will rededicate it by tearing down the veil and restoring the presence of God to all of God's people

C. [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."

1. They are frustrated. Jesus has been intentionally vague with them. He has been direct with others, but vague with most.

D. [25] Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, [26] but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. [27] My sheep hear my voice, and I know

them, and they follow me. [28] 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.

1. Jesus speaks to the world with the Father's Words.

- a) Jesus always said what the Father told him to say. "I told you..."
- b) I am the one who came from heaven (John 3:13, 6:38)
- c) Whoever believes on Me has eternal life (John 3:15)
- d) I am the unique Son of God (John 5:19-23)
- e) I will judge all humanity (John 5:19-23)
- f) Honor Me just as you honor God the Father (John 5:19-23)
- g) The Hebrew Scriptures all speak of Me (John 5:39)
- h) I am the bread of heaven (John 6)
- i) I perfectly reveal God the Father (John 7:28-29)
- j) I always please God and never sin (John 8:29, 8:46)
- k) I am uniquely sent from God (John 8:42)
- l) Before Abraham was, I Am (John 8:58)
- m) I am the light of the world
- n) I am the door - the way to the Father
- o) I am the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep

2. Some don't believe Jesus' words, and therefore they do not believe in "the Word" (Jesus).

- a) The problem wasn't that Jesus was unclear about who He was, but they weren't hearing...

3. Jesus speaks to the world by doing the Father's work.

- a) Jesus always did what the Father told him to do. "I showed you..."
- b) Baptism by John... Water into wine... Feeding 5000... Calming the stormy sea... Sight to the blind... (and to come) reviving of Lazarus... Crucifixion... Resurrection...
- c) Still, you do not believe my work!

4. Some don't believe that Jesus' work was from the Father.

- a) It is not that they didn't think he did these miracles. They just thought he was powered by Satan rather than the Father.

5. Why do they not believe? Jesus tells them, "You do not believe because you are not my sheep."

- a) Those who believe are his sheep. They...
 - (1) Hear Jesus' voice
 - (2) Known by Jesus and, in turn, follow Jesus
 - (3) Jesus gives them eternal life so that they never perish
 - (4) Jesus holds on to them tightly, so none are lost
 - (5) The Father, stronger than all, has given them to Jesus.
 - (6) The Father holds the sheep tightly too.

E. [30] *I and the [my] Father are one.* [31] *The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. [32] Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" [33] The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."*

1. How is it...
 - a) That he holds the sheep and the Father holds the sheep too?
 - b) That Jesus speaks the Father's words?
 - c) That Jesus does the Father's work?
2. Because **Jesus and the Father are one.**
3. They know what he is claiming.
 - a) You can't be your own Father. He isn't claiming modalism.
 - b) You can't be one with the Father in essence and nature and not be God. This refutes the teaching that Jesus isn't God (Arianism)
 - c) *"In the sentence, 'I and the Father are One,' the word 'One' is neuter, and means one Essence: it is not masculine, which would have been one Person."* (Trench)

4. The Jews of Jesus' day understood what the Jehovah's Witnesses and others seem to miss – that Jesus clearly claimed to be God.

F. [34] *Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'?" [35] If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—[36] do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?" [37] If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; [38] but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."* [39] *Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.*

1. Facing this crowd, Jesus responds like an educated rabbi debating educated rabbis using an argument from the lesser to the greater
2. In Psalm 82, the rabbinical interpretation of the quote from v34 was that "gods" refers to the judges in the ANE that weren't ruling their territories well, with the justice of the Law of God
3. Jesus says to them, "Now wait a second. If your interpretation is correct of Psalm 82, you say that gods refers to men. Now we know that Scripture cannot change. So are you saying that I am blaspheming because I call myself a son of God while I do GOOD works? If you call them sons of gods with bad works, how much more can I use that moniker with good works?! If you don't believe my words, believe my works. Therefore, you will know that I am from the Father!"
4. They try to arrest him instead of stoning him.

G. [40] *He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. [41] And many came to him. And they*

*said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true."
[42] And many believed in him there.*

1. His sheep hear his voice. They believed John. They believe Jesus.

III. Summarize

- A. What does this teach about God, about Jesus?

- 1. Jesus speaks the words of the Father because he IS the Word of the Father.**

- 2. Jesus does the work of the Father because he and the Father are one.**

- B. What does this teach about mankind?

- 1. Some reject Jesus' words. Therefore, they reject the Father.**

- 2. Some deny Jesus' work is from God. Therefore, they reject the Father.**

- 3. His sheep hear his voice and follow him!**

- a) This doesn't mean that if you aren't following him today you never will, but it does mean that his call to his sheep is always effective.
- b) He knows his sheep - past, present and future - b/c the Father has given them to him and he won't lose a single one.

- C. What should we do to obey the principles here?

- 1. Trust in the word and the work of Jesus.**

- a) To believe in the cross without obeying the teachings of Jesus isn't possible.
- b) **True saving faith is trusting that Jesus is who he says he is and did what he said he did.** - Trusting in the word and work of Jesus.

- 2. Point people to the word and work of Jesus by being people of word and work.**

- a) Luke 10: Go out as sheep among wolves, heal the sick, proclaim the kingdom!
- b) We proclaim the truth of the gospel.
 - (1) Boldly... Prudently... w/ wisdom... accurately..
 - (2) Gotta know the Word to do all that!
- c) We also need to live the goodness of the gospel.
 - (1) We need to love the least... the last... the lost...
 - (2) We need to love our enemies... those who harm us... those who hate God...
 - (3) We are called to serve like Jesus, love like Jesus!
- d) Most of us lean towards doing or speaking, but we need to do both!

- 3. Leave the results in the hands of God. His sheep hear his voice.**

- a) Hear, Obey, Share → be faithful to that calling and leave the results to God

- D. Example: All over the world, God is working powerfully when followers of Jesus obey him in Word and Deed (just like Jesus did)
1. Primary vehicle for finding persons of peace = word and deed
 - a) Not just word... Not just deed...
 2. Story: From land of Daniel
 - a) How did the new believers respond? w/ Word and Deed!