

SERMON NOTES

Reason To Believe: Fault Lines
John 10:22-42

We find ourselves at a “fault line” in the life and ministry of Jesus. Over two years, Jesus has been performing miracles as well as preaching and teaching concerning the kingdom of God. His conflict with the Jewish leaders has now reached a “fault line.” Their rejection of His deity becomes a line in the sand, and Jesus clearly and firmly articulates “I and the Father are one.”

BACKGROUND: (vs. 22 - 23)

Whenever you receive an invitation to dinner, a party, or any event you always want to know what time and where. Time and place are important! John begins this section by giving us both time and place. This exchange occurred during the Feast of Dedication and it was during the winter season. He gives us further detail by saying it occurred in the portico of Solomon in the Temple. The details of time and place are not merely here for historical importance. They also signify a shift in the ministry of Jesus. This concludes what is called the “feast section” in the narrative that began in chapter 5. John reveals Jesus’ conflict and confrontation with the religious leaders of Israel primarily during their annual feasts.

In our study, we are approximately half way through the Gospel of John. Chapter 10 is the final picture of the public ministry of Jesus. Once we finish chapter 10, we move into the last few months of the earthly life of Jesus. John spent 10 chapters on the public ministry of Jesus, but he spends half of the narrative on the private and passion ministry. Chapters 11 - 21 are devoted to the last few months and weeks of Jesus’ life.

As we conclude chapter 10, we see the fourth example of the Jews wanting to kill Jesus. Their anger and fury reach an intensity (v. 31) because He clearly professed to be God. With only a few months left on the earth, Jesus knows the “time and place” are quickly approaching for Him to suffer, die, be buried, and rise from the dead.

THE WORKS AND WORDS OF JESUS REVEAL HIS DEITY (vs. 24 - 26)

THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE LORD RECOGNIZE HIS VOICE AND RESPOND TO HIS WORD (vs. 27 - 29)

- Salvation
- Security (assurance of salvation)

REJECTION IS IN REALITY, REFUSAL TO BELIEVE JESUS IS GOD (vs. 30 - 39)

- Jesus clearly claimed to be God

This is the climax of the Lord’s claim to oneness with the Father (10:18, 25, 28, 29). He was not just the Christ of messianic expectation; he claimed identity of substance with God.

Verse 30 – The father and the son are in perfect unity in their nature and their actions.

- The Jewish leaders clearly understood Jesus claimed to be God
 - They wanted to stone him (v. 31) – they wanted to completely get rid of Jesus
 - They wanted to take him (v. 39) – they wanted to control Jesus

Why is the deity of Jesus Christ a “fault line” for our Christian faith? Joe McKeever gave 4 reasons (and there are more) for why the deity of Jesus matters:

- His integrity is at stake.
- Our salvation is at stake.
- His promises are at stake, as well as our destiny.
- The Christian faith and everything about our eternal hope is at stake.