**The Gospel of John:**

**The Father and The Son—One in Essence, Pt 1**

*John 10:22-42*

5 scenes in the narrative

1. **Their question—tell us plainly, vv22-24**

**John 10:22-24***—At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem;****23****it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon.****24****The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.”*

1. Context
   1. Feast of the Dedication (AKA *Feast of Lights* or *Hanukkah*)
   2. Jewish month of Chislev (Nov-Dec) on the 25th
   3. Roughly 2 months between v21 and v22
   4. It’s winter—in more ways than one
   5. Origin of this feast comes from an inter-testimonial event (170 B.C.)
   6. Wicked despot king of Syria Antiochus Epiphanes
   7. Revolt of Judas Maccabeus and retaking Jerusalem on 25 Chislev 164 BC
   8. 2 Maccabees 10:1-8
2. Location: the portico of Solomon in the Temple

**Acts 3:11; 5:12**

1. Time: It was winter—John’s purpose was not only to indicate time, but perhaps used as a metaphor for the spiritual condition of the Jews
2. Circumstances: they gathered around Him—to surround or encircle Him  
     
   **Luke 21:20; Acts 14:20; Hebrews 11:30**
3. Question: Are You the Christ?  
   1. This is the right question to the right person (**Matthew 16:15-16**)
   2. But the motive was less than genuine
   3. The hope was to trap Jesus with His words to accuse Him
   4. Tell us “plainly”—openly or publicly (**7:4; 13, 26; 11:54; 18:20**)
   5. This would provide reason for an arrest and execution
4. **Jesus’ assertion—I and the Father are One, vv25-31**

**John 10:25-31**—*Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me.****26****But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep.****27****My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;****28****and I give eternal life to them, 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.”* ***31****The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.*

1. I told you more than once (**John 5:17ff; 8:12, 24, 58**)
2. The works prove it (**John 10:32, 38; 3:2; 5:36; 7:31; 11:47; 14:11; Acts 2:22**)
3. You do not believe (says twice)  
   1. Not due to clear communication
   2. It is due to their spiritual blindness (**John 9:39-41**)
   3. Not for lack of information, but lack of faith

**John 3:19-21**—*This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.****20****For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.****21****But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”*

* 1. Jesus refused to commit Himself to those who willfully rejected the truth.[[1]](#footnote-1)
  2. No matter how much evidence was presented, they were resolved to not believe (cf. **8:43; Matthew 26:63-65; Luke 22:66-67**)
  3. They could not believe because they were not of His sheep (**John 10:29; 6:37: 17:2, 6, 9**)

**Luke 22:22**—*For indeed, the Son of Man is going as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!”*

**Acts 2:23**—*this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.*

Cf. **John 6:35-40**

1. My sheep hear My voice—they know Me; I know them  
   1. The elect will hear His call and will respond
   2. They will continue in the faith until the end

**Romans 8:29-30**—*For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;****30****and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*

1. The believer is eternally secure, **vv28-29**
   1. Salvation does not depend on human effort
   2. It is afforded the believer by the atoning work of Christ alone
   3. It is a gracious, sovereign act to the elect based on a promise from God
2. Believers are bound to Him forever   
   1. Believers are His **sheep**
   2. They hear and **follow** His **voice**
   3. They have **eternal life**
   4. He **gives** them eternal life
   5. They **will never perish**
   6. No one is powerful enough to **snatch them out of** Jesus’ **hand**
   7. Doubly, no one is able to **snatch them out of the Father’s hand  
        
      Colossians 3:3**—*For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God*
3. I and the Father are One  
     
   One in substance (or nature), not one person  
   **John 6:39-40***—This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.****40****For this is the will of My Father, that every-one who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”*
4. In response, the Jews pick up stones to stone Him   
   1. This was the 4th time—**5:16-18; 7:1; 8:59**
   2. The Roman government had not given them the right of capital punishment (**18:31**)
5. **Their accusation—blasphemy, v32-33**

**John 10:32-33**—*Jesus answered them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?”****33****The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.”*

1. Jesus challenges their denial
2. These works are done at the direction of the Father

**John 5:19-23**—*Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.****20****For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.****21****For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.****22****For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,****23****so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.*

* 1. They offer visible, tangible, certain proof
  2. They prove that He is not a blasphemer
  3. Who really is the blasphemer?

1. The leaders make their accusation known—rightly understood  
   1. Their minds were already made up
   2. Their sin held them captive
   3. In their mind, this was THE ultimate sin—a man claiming to be God!
   4. Therefore, Jesus was The worst enemy of the Jewish faith
2. The irony: their accusation was entirely correct (v33)

**John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-11**

1. **Jesus’ works validate His union with the Father, vv34-38**

**John 10:34-38**—*Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’?****35****If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),****36****do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?****37****If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me;****38****but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.”*

1. Jesus is charged with blasphemy  
   1. This affirms that they understood exactly Jesus’ claim
   2. They never asserted that they did not understand this claim
   3. They understood He was claiming to be God
2. The Law (OT) used the term *gods* to refer to others than God Himself

**Psalm 82:6**—*I said, “You are gods, And all of you are sons of the Most High.”*

* 1. They ruled as His representatives and spokesmen (**Exodus 4:16; 7:1**)
  2. Scripture cannot be broken—absolute authority and inerrancy

**Matthew 5:17-19**—“*Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.****18****For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.****19****Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*

1. **The Point:** If evil men could (in some sense) be called *gods*, how could it be inappropriate for Jesus to call Himself “The Son of God”?
   * + 1. This is an argument from the lesser to the greater

If the word *god* could be used of people who were no more than judges, how much more could it be used of one with greater dignity, greater importance and significance any mere judge, one “**who the Father sanctified and sent into the world?”** He is not placing himself on a level with men, but setting Himself apart from them.[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. If you don’t believe me, believe the works  
   1. They prove His union with the father, **v30**
   2. If they hadn’t been done, they would have been right to reject Him
   3. They do not follow the clear logic of undeniable proof
2. **The repeated outcome and Jesus’ departure, vv39-42**

**John 10:39-42***—Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp.* ***40****And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He was staying there.****41****Many came to Him and were saying, “While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true.”****42****Many believed in Him there.*

1. The unbelief of the His opponents
2. His hour had not yet come**John 7:30***—So they were seeking to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.*

**John 8:20***—These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.*

1. Jesus eludes their grasp
2. Jesus went away to Bethany beyond the Jordan  
   * + 1. Those there remembered JTBs message about Jesus
       2. Everything JTB said was true
       3. Many believed
3. Jesus would return one last time to Jerusalem in a few months

**Conclusion**

How has the love for sin and the deeply held, preconceived ideas people have, prevent them from truly seeing Jesus for who He is? Those who are drawn to Him in repentance and faith will know the truth and be set free.

**John 8:32**—…*and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*

**John 7:17***—If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.*

**John 1:12***—But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.*

1. John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, John 1-11.* p. 442 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Leon Morris, *Reflections on the Gospel of John*, p. 396 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)