

"I And My Father Are One!"

Title: ~~SECRET~~Text: ~~SECRET~~ John 10:22-30

Will you take your Bibles, please, and turn to John chapter 10. The Gospel of John chapter 10. There are notes in your bulletin and I encourage you to follow along with me as we study the Word of God together. John chapter 10 is the great chapter on the Good Shepherd. Jesus is the good shepherd.

(Read John 10:22-30)

-Let's Pray-

Let's review these
 In the first ²¹~~10~~ verses of this chapter, *Here we have* ~~we have seen~~ the shepherd for who he really is in contrast to thieves and robbers who came up another way. *Christ* In Vs 11 we examined the responsibility of that shepherd. I remind you again, that the fold ^{-vs 1} is not the church. The fold is Judiasm. The fold is not heaven. It is Judiasm.

The ^{door keeper -vs 3} ~~porter~~ who opens the door is John the Baptist. The ~~shepherd~~ shepherd, of course, is Christ. And the ~~sheep~~ sheep were in the fold. And as shepherds did in ancient times they all put their sheep in one fold in one village. And in the morning they would come and call ~~their~~ ^{their} own sheep. And the sheep would know their shepherd by the sound of his voice. And the sheep that belonged to that shepherd would come to him. And so those ^{out} ~~ought~~ of the fold of Judiasm would come to him *or to Jesus*

^{vs 16} Jesus said, "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold." That means these who come to Jesus who are not necessarily Jews. And then Jesus ^{-vs 16} said that there will be not one fold, but one flock. One flock and one shepherd. Both Jew and Gentile will be put into one body in Christ. And that is the church. And it is a fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant. For God said to Abraham, "In thee shall all nations, all Gentiles, be blessed." And Galatians 3:3-9 tells us that those who are children of God by faith are sons of Abraham. And that God's promise to him that his children would be like the sands of the seashore and the stars of the sky are through those who will believe in Jesus Christ. *-namely Christians*

The great doctrine of the church is being taught here by our Lord.

Now, beginning with Vs 22 there is not a change. It is seemly telling us somewhat of the time, whether a few days had passed or not. I believe the occasion is very important. But, first let's look at the request of the Jews Three things about this request.

(1) First, the time...(2) Second, the place...and (3) third, the nature of that request.

(1) First, the time. The Bible says in Vs 22 "that the time was the Feast of Dedication, and it was in winter." Both comments are important. This is the only place in the Bible where the Feast of Dedication is mentioned.

I do not believe that this is referring to the dedication of the temple under Solomon. Because the Bible tells us that that Feast, that celebration, happened at harvest time. Not in the winter.

I also do not believe that this is the temple of Nehemiah or Ezra. Because that dedication happened in Spring. This is very important. In the context it was winter. Not ~~spring~~...not fall...but winter.

What feast of dedication is it then? Well, there is only one that I know of that it could possibly refer to. And it is not even taught or mentioned in the Bible. But it is very important. And that is in the book of Macabees which is in the Apocrypha. Macabees has good history in it. Especially as it relates to the Macabian revolt. It happened about 160 years before Christ.

In that first book of Macabees, in chapter 4 verses 52-59 there is a definite Feast of Dedication that is set up among the Jews to be practiced every year. It was an eight day feast. And tradition tells us that it was practice even in the days of Christ.

Judas Macabeus was the one who rededicated the Temple after it had been ~~destroyed~~ ^{disrupted} by the Syrians. ^{and} ~~but~~ they were so thrilled that the temple had now been purified. And they held an eight day feast to celebrate the purification of the temple.

And I find it very interesting that the very words, Feast of dedication, is used two times in God's Word in its verbal form.

And I would like you to turn to it, please. Hebrews chapter 9... Hebrews chapter 9 verse 18. And you will see the connection in just a moment. And How significant it was that the shephred and sheep story was told at the time of the Feast of dedication, which the Jews were practicing, honoring the temple and re-establishing the sacrificial system.

Hebrews 9:18 "Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood."... "Inaggurated" is the same word translated "dedication". How was the first covenant dedicated or consecrated? It was dedicated by blood. ^{The Priest} Most threw blood all over the people and dedicated them.

"Without the shedding of blood, says Vs 22, there is no forgiveness of sins." The second covenant which is the new covenant, which is not grace in contrast to law, it is blood. The new covenant is the blood of J.C. That very covenant is the title of the entire 27 books of Your New Covenant. The blood of J.C.

Vs 22 says "that all things according to the law are cleansed with blood" It was dedicated and conscrated with blood.

Now, look at chapter 10, please, verses 19 and 20. Hebrews chapter 10 verfses 19 and 20.

Acturally chapter 10:19 is the turning point in the book of Hebrews. Hebrews is divided into two parts. The first part goes up to verse 18 of chapter 10. And then there is the application of all this great doctrine about Christ, his ministry, his high priesthood, his sacrifice. As all the types of the Temple look forward to him. Here is the conclusion. Vs 19... "Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he inaugurated." That is our Feast of Dedication term. "He inaugurated, he dedicated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh."

Now, there ~~is a~~ was a veil in the Temple between the holy of holies and the Holy place. But this viel is his flesh...Vs 21

Vs 21..."...(Read Vs 21-22)

The point is that the ideal time for the shephred to tell that the shephred will lay down his life for the sheep, was the Feast of Dedication.

Because it was dedicated by blood. And by a new and living way has Christ dedicated himself. For he is the Temple. Everything in it. He is the High Priest. He is the altar. He is the sacrifice. He is the altar of incense. He is the table of showbread. He is the seven golden candlesticks. He is the laver. He is every bit of the Temple. And the beautiful typology here is just fantastic. That Christ would choose that occasion, The Feast of Dedication, perfect timing by a God who knew all things. To tell them that the only way that they are going to have their lives really dedicated and consecrated is not through the old covenant, the old temple, which they were now celebrating, but through the dedication and consecration of his own blood. The shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep.

(2) Now, let's come back to John chapter 10 verse 23... The second point is the place. And the place, again, we are told is the temple and in Solomon's porch. And this again is very important. Because the Feast of Dedication reminded them of the glory of Solomon's Temple. And there was only one ~~part~~ part of that ancient Temple, we now know from archeology, was still standing ~~at the~~ Herod's Temple ~~at~~ the time of Christ. And that was Solomon's porch. This porch was an outside courtyard. It was huge in size. People would gather there and teach there. The area would hold crowds up into the thousands.

So, it is here in the midst of all of this. At the time of the dedication of the Temple. A Feast started by Judas Maccabees and practiced by the Jews every year, during the winter. And Christ is there at that moment saying "I am the good shepherd. I am everything this Feast is about. It is by my blood that you will be saved. The shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." ..I think that is fantastic. The timing of our Lord Jesus. Right there in the Temple area on Solomon's porch.

There are two other references in the Bible to Solomon's porch. In Acts 3:11 and in Acts 5:12. Which is kind of exciting because it was there that the ~~shepherds~~ sheep were being saved. Acts 3:11 and Acts 5:12. Many many people, many believers in ~~that~~ ^{those} early days after Pentecost were saved right at Solomon's porch. That is where Peter was preaching.

Now,

The Jews

(3.) ~~In the third place~~, let's look at the nature of ~~their~~ request. Vs 24...
the nature of their request. ~~This is a very difficult verse.~~ It says, "The
Jews therefore gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, 'How long will you
keep us in suspense? If you are the christ, tell us plainly.'"

I would like to translate this verse literally so that you will see why
it is tough.

It says literally, "Untill when, are you lefting up the soul of us."
That is an unusally expression. Acturally it is an itom from that ~~the~~ time.
"Untill when, are you lefting up the soul of us." And the idea was "in
suspense". That is, you are raising ~~the~~ ^{our} expectations without satisfying them.
And that was the nature of their request.

~~So~~ The thing that I want you to see, here, is that ~~Christ~~ ^{Jesus} was acturally
building the anticipation of the people that he really was all that he claimed
to be..... *That he is the good shephard*

And so they are having ~~the~~ ^{more} expectations raised without being satisfied,
according to them. And so they ~~cried~~ cried out, "if you are the Christ, tell
us." Right now! Just tell us plainly.

The Greek text says, "in boldness." Tell us in boldness. With feedom
of speech, openly, don't hide it anymore, lay it on us. We are ready to
receive it....Bloney....You are not ready to receive it....

You see, they had already agreed and plotted and planned to kill him. ^{Chp 8th}
And all they wanted was for Him to openly, before the crowds of people, to
say, "I AM THE MESSIAH." And then they could arrest him and kill him....

(^{but}) Jesus, again, with great skill, The ability of only the Son of God,
begins to reply to this request in Veres 25 to 30 So, let's look at the
reply of Jesus. And there are four things that I want you to see here.

(1) Number one, the cause of their unbelief. In Vs 25 Jesus answered them
and said, "I told you, and you did not believe."

Now, that is true. If you have studied the first 9 chapters of the
Gospel of John, you know that Jesus already told them. And now he says, "You
don't believe."

That He was the Messiah

Vs 25, "The works that I do in my Father's name, these bear witness of me." That was all the witness that they needed. [The O.T said that the only way to prove the truthfulness of the Messiah is that he was suppose to heal the lame, which ~~he~~^{ye} did in John chapter 5. He healed the lame man.

The Messiah was to heal the blind. This Jesus did in John chapter 9. Also, the Messiah was to raise the dead. Jesus did that in John 11.

And those three outstanding signs were the O.T. proof of Messiahship. And Jesus did all three. And in all three ^{Cases} causes, guess what their problem ~~was~~^{is}?...."He couldn't be who he says he is because he is blaspheming...." Some logic. Because right before them he is giving them the very signs that are the proof of the Messiah. ^{So} They were not believing his works at all.

() And notice, the reason they are not believing his works is found in Vs 26..."you do not believe, because you are not of my sheep."

In other words, when you are not his sheep, that is the reason you will not believe. When you are one of his sheep, you believe.

Now, which comes first?....Belief..or being his sheep....That is ~~is a~~^{is a} ~~good~~^{good} problem, isn't it? *Chicken or egg*

According to the Bible, do you know which comes first?....Listen, before the foundation of the world, Jesus gave you a name. He called you unto himself. And ~~whom he did for know~~^{Those whom He chose}, he also predestined, and then he also called. He calls his sheep by name. And then he also justified, declared you righteous. And then he also glorified.

You know, we so often think of what we have done to become one of his sheep. And the more and more you study the Bible, ~~especially~~ especially in the Gospel of John, the more and more you become aware that the ~~shepherd~~ shephred has been taking care of it ~~all~~^{Always} that. He has just been handling the whole ~~thing~~ thing, from beginning to end. And we are like the sheep in that great fold. And the ~~sheep~~^{shephred} calls his own sheep by name and they come out....WHY?...Because ~~they already belong to him.~~^{they hear his voice. they hear the voice} That is why they respond.

The reason this group did not believe is because they were not ~~his~~^{hearing} ~~sheep~~^{sheep}....That is why ~~we~~^{people} don't believe...If you are his sheep, you are going to believe. Like they say in that T.V. commerical.....We will get you."

You say, "Now, wait a minute, I have free choice." Sure you have to choose Christ. But, listen, he calls his own sheep by name. He owns the sheep. He knows who is going to be saved.

I don't know who that is. That is why I spread the seed everywhere. That is why I preach the gospel. That is why I witness.

But, God knows. *And you know, it is exciting. Some people want to get saved before you present the plan....."ave you ever noticed that?....Some folks want to get saved before you have even shared the outline...They just want to get saved. God has spoken to their heart. It is wonderful.*

Listen, when God works on a person's heart, it is fantastic. God will bring you to himself. He calls his sheep to himself,

and the reason these people did not believe *is* because they were not his sheep.

(2) Secondly, notice the characteristics of the sheep.....It is so clear. Vs 27.."My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

That is the main characteristic. Obviously, you are not following me, so you are not my sheep...We need to apply that to all of those *that are* ~~on our~~ church rolls ~~who~~ who never darken the doors of the church.

(3) Third, the control that Jesus has over the sheep. Vs 28 to 29. And there are four things that I want you to understand. This is a precious passage. If you need assurance, here it is. If the days seem dark and you get a little discouraged, listen come to verse 28 and 29. And learn how the *Shepherd* ~~sheep~~ is controlling the sheep. Four things here.

(1) Number one, his control is based, first of all, on his provision of eternal life. His provision of eternal life. Vs 28.."and I give eternal life to them."

Now, friends *that* means just what it says. Life that will never end. "I give eternal life to them!"

He must be god. Because only God can give eternal life. Jesus *gives* ~~offers~~ eternal life.

(2) Number two, *the control* it is based on the promise of never perishing.

People are for ever asking me, "Do you believe in the security of the believer?.....I ask you, is there a choice?.....Really is there?.....Have you read the word of God.

There ~~was one~~ ^{all people} man who believed that you could loose your salvation, and ~~he~~ ^{they} seemed to lose it ever five minutes. ~~But he was~~ ^{and they are} on a crusade to find as many verses in the Bible as ~~he could~~ ^{the can} to prove that you could lose your salvation. And a lot of people try to do this. And my question to you is: "Do you want to lose it, or do you want to keep it"?....

I can answer your questions in the content of scripture. But the point is: Do you want to lose your slavation or keep it.....Study those verse that bring assurance. Vs 28 is so clear. A little child could read this and understand. In fact, I used this verse with my oldest boy when he was a little child. He had some questions. And I just simply read this verse and he understand....."I give eternal life to them; and they shall never perish".....You cannot interpret that any other way. It is not my opinion. It is clear....What a tremendous promise of assurance. Jesus tells us that we shall never perish.....PRAISE GOD...

(Romans:1) "Theare is no condemnation to them who are in Christ. ^{"Friends"} You either have eternal life or you don't.

I John 1:5 says that ["]this is the record that God has given to us eternal life. And eternal life is in his son. He who has the son has eternal life. He who has not the ^fson of God doesn't have life.

It is either one or the other. You either have it or you don't. And if you have it, nothing can change it.

And I would like to say, if you are saved, there is nothing you can do about it. You are stick. You should have thought about that before you got saved.....

(3) Third, ^{God's Control} it is based on the powerlessness of men to change this. Vs 28 is so precious. "And no one is able to snatch them out of ~~my hand~~ ^{my hand}." Jeus control is based on the powerlessness of men to change this in any way or form at all.

Now, there are always those who look at this verse and say, "Well, what if ~~you~~ ^{I have to} can jump out of his hand?"

Now, isn't that something. Jump out of His hand...Well, Vs 29 says it again for those who think this way. ^(Read Vs 26) ~~That this is also referring to the~~ Father's hand. Have you ever done a little study as to what is in the Father's hand? And how big his hand is?

Hay, the whole world is in his hand, number one.

And did you know that all the universies ^{are} ~~is~~ in his hand? Did you know that all the angles are in his hand? And, oh, yes, every man, woman and child who has ever believed in him, they are also in his hands. ...That is a pretty big hand. What do you mean, jump out of his hand?...

Where can I go from his presence? How ~~aan~~ I flee from him? says the Psalmist. It is imposssible.

But it is not just his hands. The book of Deut. assures us that under neith of us are his everlasting arms. Is isn't wonderful.

You see, you are not holding onto Christ. He is holding on to you. Philipians 1:6 says, "Be confident of this very thing that He who begun a good work in you, he will perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ."

It isn't up to you to perform it. It is God who is going to perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. What tremendous assurance.

~~Now~~ Now, I know this is important because I have discovered that Satan's work is just the opposite. He doesn't want me to believe this.

For example: you get up in the morrowing and you didn't have a good nights sleep. And you are really restless and grtchy. And you don't want to go to work....And you are down in the dumps....And you really don't feel saved...Do you know what I mean?

And someone calls you on the phone and say, "Hay, isn't it great to know the Lord?" ~~And~~ you say, "shut=up." And you hang up...

I mean you don't feel saved.....Listen, isn't it wonderful at times like that to know that there is nothing you can do about it. You are in his hands. And no one can take you out-off his hands....Praise the Lord...

You say, "Well, what about all of our backsliding?" They are all counted in Psalms 56:8. "He has numbered all of our ~~wonders~~ ^{wonders} away from him." He has taken all of our tears. All the tears that you are going to shed in your entire life. And he has put all those tears into a little bottle, says the Bible. He has it all totaled up. He knows every time you are going to cry. Some of ^{us} cry more than others. But he still has it all counted up. All the hairs of your head are numbered, says the Bible. AND DON'T WORRY! HE CAN SUBSTITUTE TOO...(Ha)...

He says there isn't a ~~spoon~~ ^{spoon} that falls from a tree that he doesn't know about.....And doesn't your heavenly Father take care of you more than that? Sure he does.

Softly Whoever told you, that you could possible do anything to change the power of God? Whoever told you that?...~~The~~ Bible teaches that ~~man~~ ^{we} are absolutely helpless to change this in any way, shape, or form. *Praise God!*

God, Great
 (4) In the fourth place, ~~it~~ is based upon the pre-eminence of the heavenly Father. *Jesus* strengthens the point by saying in Vs 29.."My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all." And that includes Satan. There isn't ~~anyone~~ ^{anyone} who could possible take you out of the mighty hand of God. The Father is greater than anything or anyone. He is pre-eminent over all..

(4) Now, on the bases of this, we come to the fourth thing about his reply here to these Jews who ask him, "Hay, tell us if you are the one. And stop raising our expegtations without satisfying them.

In Vs 30 we find the conclusion that Jesus makes to this question. "I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE."

Now, there are some who teach, at this point, that Jesus wasn't claiming equality. What he was claiming was that he and the Father are one in purpose. Alter all, we are one with the Father in purpose, also...

That is nescience. That is not what the verse says. It isn't one in purpose. I and the Father are one in the context is dealing with the fact that they are one in the power that is providing security to the believer. In the ability to give eternal life, in the ability to cause ~~such~~ such a strength here that no one can snatch them out of their hands, no one can *perish*

They are one in that ^{power}... One in that kind of power... Meaning: they are one and the same in nature.

By the way, many Bible teachers point out that the little word "my" in your KJ is not in the original Greek text. Jesus did not say "I and my Father". In the Greek it says "I and The Father"...are one.

When he says "my Father" he is talking in his position of subordination. But he choose ~~not~~ to do this. Because he ~~is~~ ^{is} driving home the issue of his real claim. I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE."

And that deals with power.. And ability to give eternal life. We are one in that. And it takes the same nature. God's ~~own~~ nature to be able to give that. No human being could have given eternal life. Or, to provide the security that is promised here in Vs 28-29...

Do you have that security? You can by confessing your sin - and asking Jesus to come into your life

Let's close in Prayer

"But as many as receive him, to them He gave ^(John 1) the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name!"

Believe in the name of Jesus, and you too shall be saved. You too shall have the security of knowing without a shadow of doubt that you have eternal life.