

*And Mary believed on Him*  
Title: *The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

Text: John 10:31-42

Would you take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to ~~the~~ the Gospel of John. The gospel of John chapter 10 beginning with Vs 31.

(3 ) Now, thirrd, let's notice the repsonse they gave in Vs 31-39 It is almost like a broken record, isn't it. "The Jews took up stones ~~again~~ again to stone Him." Every time he gives a claim and provides proof of his ~~td~~ true true identy, they know what the issue is. They charge him with blaspheming agains.

(1 ) Well, notice, first of all the cause for their hostility. They say very clearly in Vs 33 the reason they want to stone him is because of blasphemying. They felt they were right according to the O.T. law. Or, as Vs 33 says "because you, being a man, make yourself out to be God."

Did you know that it was very difficult, even today, for a Jewish mind especially if that Jewish individual is well grounded in his faith, that it is very difficult for them to picture God in human form.

Now, you must think about this for a moment. You need to understand why it was so confusing for them. ~~That~~ You see, even from the standpoint of the Messiah, and what Messiah would do for his people...To identify the Messiah as the Father God was a very important divation as far as the Jew was concerned. They could not picture the Father in human form. And that, according to I Timothy 3:16 , the mystery of Godliness that God was manifest in flesh. That is the issue of who Jesus is.

Jesus said later in John 14 to one who said, "Show us the Father and we will be happy." And Jesus said "if you have seen me you have seen the Father"

And this is a very difficult thing. And they said, "Listen, you are a man." Which rules out the possibility that you are God.

You see, what they didn't like is going from Messiah to God. To claim that he was Messiah, was one thing. They would not have charged him with blaspheming nor attempted to stone him, if he said that he was the Messiah. It was merely a matter of examining the evidence.

But it was deeper than that. He was not only saying that he was Messiah, but that he was God.

And they quickly discerned that. And they said, "Listen, you are a man. And you are making yourself equal with God." And that is exactly what he was doing...

Now, the next point is ~~really hard~~ to understand. I want to be careful. And I don't want to be misunderstood. Look at it very carefully. These next few verses is Jesus' commendary on an O.T. text that solves this problem as to how anyone could claim to be God.

Vs 34..."Jesus answered them, 'Has it not been written in your Law, I said, you are gods?'".....~~Now, let's stop at this point.~~ Vs 35..."If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came."

The word of God came unto some group ~~called gods~~ that is called gods. And someone called them gods.

Would you turn in your O.T. to Pslams 82. This is the passage that is quoted. Psalms 82. I want to look at this Psalm and see if we can understand what the point is that Jesus is making in terms of answering the charge of blaspheming in ~~claiming~~ to be God. And Jesus used an O.T. text to prove that there wasn't anything unusally in what he was saying.

Now, the issue of Psalms 82 is about the judges of Israel. The princ~~es~~, the rulers, the ones who do the judging for God, unto to whom the words of God come.

Psalms 82:1 says that "god takes his stand in his own congregation; He judges in the midst of the rulers(NAS) gods(KJ).

Is that referring to~~g~~ pagan gods?...NO! They don't do any judging. They are just stone and wood. No! he is talking about something else. Vs 2..How long will you judge unjustly, and show partiality to the wicked?"

Here is wrong judgement on the part of the leaders who were to judge. Then in Vs 3 he points out some of the issues. "Vindicate the weak and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the weak and needy; Deliver them out of the hand of the wicked, etc."

Now, Vs 6..."I said"..This is what Jesus quoted in John 10..."I said, you are gods, And all of you are sons of the Most High. Nevertheless ~~y~~ou will die like men. And fall like any one of the princes. Arise, O God, judge the earth! For it is thou who dost possess all the nations."

Now, the issue here is that the rulers and princes are elevated in the congregation among the nation of Israel and treated like gods...

That is also true about the high priest. The high priest was to represent the people to God. The prophets, the judges, the kings were to speak God's word to the people and to teach it. And they were to treat these men as gods. Does that mean that they had the nature and qualities of god? NO!!! It means that they were ~~exalted~~ exalted and elevated in the eyes of the people in terms of god directly speaking to them in order for them to speak to the people.

Now, the argument here is also related to another O.T. text. I want to show you that the judges are called gods among the congregation of Israel.

Turn to Exodus chapter 22. Exoudus chapter 22. This is a breakdown of the specifics that are in the O.T. law. The 10 commandments in Exodus 20. And the chapters that follow. The specifics.

Exoudus 22 verse 8 and 9.....(Read Vs 8-9)

Now, are you ready for this?.....The word in the text is the word "Elohim"..God...

Now, "Elohim" in Hebrew is a plural word. That is also important to the doctrine of the Tri-unity of God. It is plural, not singlar. God is a term like "man" or ~~/sheep/~~ "sheep" or "fish". If you are talking about one sheep you say "sheep". If you are talking about many sheep you still say "sheep." A gen'aric term meaning one or a group. God is a plural term. It can refer to "gods"..maaning "pagan gods" that people set up and build out-off stone. Or, it can refer to judges, as in the case of Exodus 22. They were judging ~~v~~for Israel. They were judging in appling the law. But they are called gods.

Or, the term can refer to God along. God almighty. Now, that may seem a problem to you. But it shouldn't be.

It is just like "man" or "sheep" or fish". A gen'aric @term.... In terms of the Tri-unity of God, for example, God says...like in Genesis 1, Genesis 11...."Let us make man in our image." The word is Elohim..God or Gods....And the point is that the term is often used of judges or men who spoke for God. They spoke the word of God.

Now, come back to John 10 and let me put this together for you.

Christ is bring the proof of Psalms 82. "You are gods"....The scripture says so! Who? The judges in Israel. And they were mere men.

So, Jesus says, if you call them gods. Meaning the judges...unto whom the Word of God came. That is why they were treated like gods because they were speaking God's word to the people. And they listened like as if God was speaking to them.

Then the next statement in Vs 35 "The Scripture cannot be broken." Now, that was putting the burden of proof back on them. Did the scripture say this or didn't it? Did the O.T. in the book of Exodus call these men gods or didn't it?....

You see....And these Jews would have to respond YES...And they also held that the scripture cannot be broken.

Well, then Jesus says, if you called men "gods" in the O.T., then how can you say of him who the Father hath set apart or sanctified and sent into the world, that I am blaspheming because I said that I am the son of God?"

Now, look back at Vs 33 again "You being a man, make yourself out to be a God." The point they were making is that ~~one/w/~~ on one could call himself god in anyway sharp or form who was also man.

And his answer to that is that they is not true. Because the O.T. ~~defi~~ definitely calls the judges gods because the Word of God came unto them. And people responded as though God was speaking to them. Treating and regarding them as though they were god.

And his point is, wouldn't you at least treat me in the same way... You see they should have been sensitive to them. There would have been some respect shown. At least the respect should have been the same that they had shown to the judges in the O.T.

Why then did they say that he was blaspheming? Because he said that he was giving them the word of God. Instead would they not rather do like they did with the judges in the O.T., and the prophets and the kings, and determine whether or not what he was saying was the true.

You see, they were not giving Jesus a fair chance. The Bible tells you how to judge whether a man was speaking the workd of God or not.

But they were not applying those judgements to christ. They were simple point blankly saying "you are blaspheming." Instead of examining his words and his works as to whether or not the O.T. agreed that this was valid, this was right, this was correct.

Jesus said, my word is true because my works are exactly what the Bible says the Messiah should do. And they were not giving him that chance. And he is saying that he is not doing anythings worse then what you did in the O.T. regarding the judges as gods.

Why am I doing anything worse. And the least amount of respect, Jesus is saying, that you could show me is the same kind that you showed the judges. And you should spend your time examining what I am doing..my works..and see whether or not I am telling the truth.

It is a great argument....It is important....And I hope you understand.. And his point is that it is not strange for me to declare that I am god. It is your problem to determine whether or not I am telling the truth.

And I say that to you also. It is not strange for ~~someone~~<sup>Jesus</sup> to be treated and regarded as god. The question is: Have you examined his claims and what he has done in his works to see if he really is telling the truth.

(3 ) Thus Jesus says in Vs 37-38, his conclusion, "if I don't do the works of my father, then don't believe me." That is the point. Judge me ~~by~~ my works as to whether or not I am telling you the truth. But if I do, believe not my words, but believe the works that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father"

And once again, what is the reaction of the people? Instead of ~~do~~ doing that they sought again to seize him, but he escaped.

( ) Then finally Vs 40 to 42. This is a real blessing. We have seen so much reaction against Christ. The development of unbelief. This really started back in chapter 5 when Jesus healed the lame man. You see, the root problem that was bothering them is that they were mis-intrepreting the law that you couldn't do anything on the Sabbath day, in terms of acts and mercies. And that was really digging at them. Because it is like saying to those religious leaders that they are wrong and Jesus is right.

That was digging at them. And so they continued to bring that up that He was violating the Sabbath. And they kept accusing him.

Well, there is a great little addition here. Look at the reception he had at the Jordan river.

Now, when you have been under the pressure of unbelievers like that. This is good news....Vs 40 "And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing".....WHO?.....HIMSELF.....He went back to the same place where he was baptized by John. And there he stayed. And Vs 41 says "that many came to him."

They just followed him. Jesus went off to be alone, but the people just came after him. And they were saying, "listen, John didn't perform any miracles, yet everything John said about this ~~is~~ man is true.....

And Vs 42 says that many believe in him.....

Isn't this wonderful? Jesus went back to the Jordan river where he had been baptized by John. He went away from the rebukes, away from the headaches. Oh, he wanted to share the gospel. But on this occasion he went back to the Jordan river. And he wanted to be alone, I believe, with his heavenly Father. But the people still came. And praise God, it was there that many believed on him.

You know, that must have been wonderful? Just tremendous...

I know something about that. I know what it is like to be confronting unbelievers, even some believers, And then to have the joy and wonderful privilege of seeing someone come to know Christ. And how refreshing that is. A lot of people rejected him. But some people believe on him.

I wonder where you stand?.....

Let's close with prayer