

39. Jesus and the Father Are One

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children understand that many will deny Jesus by rejecting His words and His works. However, there are also many others who want to learn more about Jesus. We want to help our children learn to explain to such individuals how they can receive forgiveness of sins. In our topic today, we are going to see that Jesus said that He and the Father are One.

The Feast of Dedication is the feast that the Jews today call Hanukkah or the Feast of Lights. In 170 B.C., Antiochus Epiphanes conquered the Jews. Then, he desecrated the altar of God in the temple by setting up an altar for idol worship. The Jews fought against the Syrians and freed the temple from Syrian control in December of 164 B.C., even though it took them another 22 years before the nation was finally free of Syrian control. The Jews established the Feast of Lights (Hanukkah) to celebrate the cleansing and rededication of the temple. John 10:22-24 says, “Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon’s porch. Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, ‘How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.’”

Since it was winter, Jesus walked in the area of the temple courtyard called Solomon’s Porch. This area of the temple was on the eastern side of the temple courtyard and was a covered area so that the area was protected from the weather. It was while he was walking in this area that the Jewish religious leaders came and surrounded Him and asked Him their question. Jesus had told them in John 8:42-44, “Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.’” It was not a case that Jesus had not told them but rather a case that they were unwilling to believe when He said that He had been sent by God.

Jesus had told the Jewish religious leaders already in John 5:37-38, “‘And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.’” They had refused to believe Him at that time, which was much earlier. Jesus had asked the man born blind in John 9, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” Then, John 9:37-38 says, “And Jesus said to him, ‘You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.’ Then he said, ‘Lord, I believe!’ And he worshiped Him.” However, John 9:40 says, “Then *some* of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, ‘Are we blind also?’” These Pharisees knew that Jesus had said He is the Son of God. They just chose not to believe Him. That is why the religious leaders now said, “If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.”

Jesus gave the religious leaders a very clear answer again. John 10:25-26 says, “Jesus answered them, ‘I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.’” The

fact that Jesus said that He is the Son of God is a clear statement of the fact that He is the Christ. That is why Jesus said that He had told them but they did not believe. Jesus made it clear that it was not that He had not told them. He had told them many times in various situations that He is the Christ, the Son of God. The problem of the Jewish religious leaders was the fact that they refused to believe.

Then, Jesus gave the religious leaders another source of witness about the fact that He is God. Jesus said, “The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me.” Jesus had said much earlier in John 5:36, “‘But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.’” The religious leaders had refused to believe Jesus at that earlier time and they continued to refuse to believe Him. Jesus did not leave them in doubt. Instead, the religious leaders refused to believe what Jesus said.

Jesus went on to explain why they did not believe. Jesus said, “But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.” Jesus had told the religious leaders in John 10:14, “‘I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own.’” Jesus knew His sheep. In the same way, Jesus said His sheep knew Him. The reason why the religious leaders refused to believe what Jesus said was due to the fact that they were not His sheep. Furthermore, they had no desire to be His sheep. It did not matter to them that Jesus had said that He would give His life for the sheep.

Jesus went on to explain how those who were His sheep responded to Him because He is the Good Shepherd. John 10:27-31 says, “‘My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father’s hand. I and My Father are one.’” Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.” Here, we see that Jesus explained the relationship between Him and those who were His sheep.

First, Jesus said that His sheep hear His voice. Those who have placed their faith in Jesus recognize His voice. John 10:3 says, “‘To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.’” Here, we see that Jesus calls His own sheep by name. This speaks about the personal relationship that Jesus has with each person who places his or her trust in Him. Jesus calls each Christian by name because He knows each one of us personally.

Second, Jesus said that His sheep follow Him. John 10:4-5 says, “‘And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.’” I asked a shepherd what it takes to get the sheep to follow him. He said that from the time a lamb is born, if a shepherd feeds the lamb, carries the lamb, plays with the lamb, and spends time with the lamb that when the lamb becomes a sheep, it will follow the shepherd wherever he goes. That is the kind of interest that Jesus has shown to each of us who have followed Him.

Third, Jesus said that He gives His sheep eternal life. John 3:14-15 says, ““And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”” Romans 8:1 promises, “*There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” This means that we do not need to fear eternal judgment. In addition, Jesus also said that no one can snatch us out of His hand. 1 John 4:4 says, “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” Jesus is greater than Satan so we do not need to fear that Satan can snatch us out of the hand of Jesus.

In addition, we see that Jesus said that all those who place their trust in Jesus have been given to Him by the Father. Jesus told the religious leaders that His Father is greater than all. This made it very clear to the Jews that Jesus was saying again that God was His Father. The word translated “snatch” in both verses means *to seize, to carry away by force or to be caught up*. The word is used in John 10:12 where we read, ““But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.”” In this verse, the word is translated “catches.” Satan has no power to take a Christian from either Jesus or the Father by force. No Christian ever needs to worry that he could lose his salvation because Satan would have to take Him away from both the Father and Jesus.

In addition, Romans 8:38-39 says, “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” No created thing, including the person himself, can take him away from Jesus. 1 Corinthians 11:30-32 says, “For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.” Christians can be disciplined by the Lord, even including physical death. However, this passage promises that even in the case of a Christian being chastened by the Lord with physical death, the reason is so that the person will not be condemned with the world.

The religious leaders certainly understood that Jesus was claiming to be the Son of God when he said that “I and My Father are One,” because they took up stones to stone Him.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children come to a clear understanding of the fact that Satan can never take a Christian from either Jesus or the Father by force. We also want to help them understand that even when it is necessary for the Lord to discipline a Christian with physical sickness, and even death, the Lord does that so that the person is preserved from eternal condemnation and judgment with the world. We see the greatness of the love of Jesus for every one of His sheep. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children to understand these things.