

SERIES: Gospel of John: Seeing is Believing?
 SERMON: *Jesus = God*
 SCRIPTURE: John 10:22-42
 SPEAKER: Lucas McGarity
 DATE: January 22, 2012

As your wonderful bulletin says my name is Lucas McGarity. I have worked here with the Middle School Ministry for 2 ½ years, and let me tell you it has been awesome. I am so blessed to be a part of this church family. It has been a learning journey. When I first came, I didn't have a clue what expository preaching was. I have grown in this area though and have learned the importance of it. Churches should be centered on the Word and what it teaches. Well enough about me, let's get into God's Word.

I want to encourage you to have your Bible ready during our time. Please don't take my word or any preacher's word blindly. Ask yourself, "Where stands it written?" "What verse does that statement come from?" "Is what he is saying accurate?" Please be an active listener as you hear sermons.

I hope you all picked up a bulletin when you came in this morning. We are going to take a short true/false quiz. The first question is: Do you believe Jesus is God? You can put a simple T or F answer on your paper. Ok, do you have your answers, let's take a look at them.

From the looks of it most of you put true on your paper. That is wonderful; I think it is true also! If you answered false or had an "I don't know" response I am really excited you're here. Truly pumped. For those of you who wrote true I have another question for you. Why is that important? We aren't going to go around and look at answers to this but I want you to know that it is so important. We need to both believe Jesus is God and know why that is important. Some of you may not be able to answer that right now, but my hope is that after we finish you will have a clear grasp.

This passage in John 10 is calling us to know that Jesus and the Father are one; His works are the evidence and call us to believe.

Like I said before I want you to be thinking "Where stands it written?" so let's take a look in John. Please open your Bibles to John 10:22-42 and stand for the reading of God's Word.

John 11:22-42 (ESV)

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My 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. ³⁰I and the Father are one."

³¹The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. ³²Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?” ³³The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.” ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’?” ³⁵If he called them gods to whom the word of God came – and Scripture cannot be broken – ³⁶do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and send into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? ³⁷If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; ³⁸but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.” ³⁹Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

⁴⁰He went away across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. ⁴¹And many came to him. And they said, “John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.” ⁴²And many believed in him there.

This passage is a call for us to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. We will take a look at Jesus’ statement of being one with the Father and the two responses which come from that.

JESUS MAKES A CLAIM THAT HE AND THE FATHER ARE ONE (30, 38)

This is a huge thing for him to say. It makes the Jews angry enough to want to arrest and stone him, which we will look at more later, but it is also important for those who believe in him. This passage begins with John saying the Feast of Dedication is happening. This feast is also known as Hanukkah and is during December. Hanukkah is a Jewish religious holiday but it is not as important as the Feast of Booths or Passover. These two holidays were specified in the Old Testament but Hanukkah was instituted after the Old Testament was written. It is a celebration of the rededication of the Lord’s temple after it was desecrated in 164 BC by Antiochus IV. Josh’s sermon last week about Jesus being the Good Shepherd is the very end of the Feast of Booths which began in John 7, so between verses 21 and 22 of John 10 a few months have passed. It is now December in Jerusalem and five months before Jesus will make his final trip to Jerusalem and die on a Roman cross. The opposition is rising and it is known in these verses.

The Jews approach Jesus and ask him to tell them plainly whether he is the Christ or not. Now I want to make it clear that these people are not asking these questions with a heart that wants to know the real answer and have faith in Jesus. They are asking so they can have grounds to kill Jesus. There has been a conflict between the Jews and Jesus all throughout the book of John. They have sought to kill him in chapter 5 and tried to stone him in chapter 8. They want to trap Jesus with this question and make him say he is God. If he says this they will have grounds to stone him in a legal manner, because Leviticus 24 commands for those who blaspheme the name of the Lord to be stoned. Jesus answers their questions by saying he is one with the Father in verse 30 and they pick up stones to stone him in verse 31.

We can clearly see that the Jews do not believe that Jesus is God. They think that God is one and there is no way a man can be God and that God can be a man. Jesus is blaspheming according to

their understanding of who God is. In verse 33 they say this to him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you being a man, make yourself God.” The Jews see Jesus as a man claiming to be God, but the irony is that he is God who made himself man. Jesus is not a man claiming to be God, he is God. This is the incarnation. Jesus lowered himself to the status of a man and came into this earth. Jesus is fully God and fully man, God incarnate.

But why is it important for us to know that Jesus is one with the Father? Why can't we just believe that he died for our sins and satisfied the wrath of God? Does Jesus' nature really matter? Yes it does. There are many places in the New Testament where it says Jesus was God. Colossians 2:9 states “For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.” Jesus being divine is important to us for two reasons.

Both of these reasons come from the book *Evangelical Convictions*, which Mike Andrus is teaching through in his LBI this spring. I would strongly recommend you look into this book. We need to know what we believe and why it is important.

Reason Number One:

Only if Jesus is divine can he be a full and complete revelation of God.

Jesus said that if we have seen him we have seen the Father. Jesus reveals God personally only if he is fully divine.

Reason Number Two:

If Jesus is not God himself come to us, the redemption he brings is powerless to forgive and to save.

Because of our great sin the wrath of God is on us. This is fact, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We have not lived up to God's glory. Because of that we deserve death. We have sinned against God and he is the only one who can take it away. If we try to create other ways to make things right with God it will not be effective.

John 1:29 states, “*The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’*” Unless Jesus is divine, his death is irrelevant to our moral status before God. Jesus has to be God to be our savior. If Jesus were not one with God his death on the cross wouldn't have mattered. He would have just been another guy who died on a Roman cross, similar to the two men who were crucified with him. In order for Jesus to be the perfect, sinless sacrifice for our sins he had to be one with the Father and be from God. He had to be both God and man. The people could see clearly that he was a man; he had arms, legs, hands, and feet. But they could not see that he was God from his appearance. Jesus was God however. He was “here” before “right here” was here. As John 1:1-3 say, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*” He was here from the very beginning. He was not created by God because he was God. Jesus was involved in creation. Jesus is the God man and can claim to be the Son of God because it is the truth.

Let me illustrate with a few math equations.

God's Perfect Holiness = Perfect Human Life

This is impossible for a human being to do, so we can throw this equation away.

God's Perfect Holiness ≠ Sinful Human Life

If we substitute our sinful life for perfect life, there is still a problem. God's Holiness is not compatible with sinful human life.

God's Perfect Holiness = Jesus Christ's Perfect Holy Life

Jesus is God. His sacrifice for sin is worthy to right the wrong we have done towards God. Because Jesus is God he can forgive sin. Jesus had to come from heaven (God's side of the equation) and die for our sins. This is the only way we can be brought back into relationship with God.

So Jesus has said He is one with the Father, but the Jews don't believe in Him. Jesus has told them repeatedly who He is but they do not believe because they are not in his flock. He appeals to them by asking them to believe in his works and know that he is from the Father.

THOSE WHO ARE NOT IN THE FLOCK DO NOT BELIEVE IN HIS WORKS (25-26, 31-39)

Jesus tells the Jews plainly in verse 25 that the reason they do not believe in the works that Jesus does in the Father's name is because they are not a part of his flock. The reason these Jewish religious leaders do not see Jesus' works as evidence of who he is, is because they are not his sheep. They have no authority to lead the sheep either; they are like the thieves and robbers in verses 1-21 before this. They have loads to lose if they accept Jesus as the Christ, all of their power will be gone. They will no longer be rich and have prestige. Jesus works are the evidence he is from the Father.

They want to stone him because of his claim to deity. Verse 30 says, "*The Jews picked up stones again to stone him.*" I don't know where they found these stones in Solomon's Colonnade but they got them. Now remember they also weren't skipping around to pick up these stones. They are not gathering them in small baskets to stack them in a nice, neat pile before they hurl them at Jesus. No, they have their angry eyes on and are in a rage because of what Jesus said. They do not believe he is God because they are not part of his flock.

But you have to love how Jesus is in control with his responses the entire time. There is an angry mob getting ready to stone him. When I was first reading this I thought Jesus was replying with a sarcastic tone, asking them for which specific work are you going to stone me. After looking at it more however I saw that it is a plea for the Jews to believe. He truly wants them to know he is the Christ, one with the Father. They reply in verse 33, "*It is not for a good work that we going to stone you, but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.*" Jesus challenges their understanding by quoting the Psalm 82. In that Psalm God is speaking to the nation of Israel when the law was given to them. He is giving those people who enforce the law and do the work of the Lord, the title gods (small g), sons of the Most High. They are following

through with God's plan, but these men who are referred to as gods will eventually die. Jesus however is the true Son of God, the one who has been around since the beginning and is still here today. He wants the Jewish leaders to believe and challenges them to believe, but they don't.

He pleads with them and appeals to the works he has done. If my works are not from the Father then do not believe me, but if they are know that I am who I say I am. The theological word for this is functional sonship. In ancient times sons did what their fathers did. If your dad was a carpenter you were a carpenter. What you did showed where you were from. I come from a family of nurses. My grandma was a nurse and so was her sister. My dad was a nurse and my mom is a nurse. My two older sisters are nurses and my younger is sister is going to nursing school right now. This made for some interesting dinner table conversation while I was growing up. But, as you can see I am not a nurse. I work here. The work that I do is not the same as the work my father did. Jesus however did do the works of his Father. In chapter 5 after Jesus healed the man at the pool he said, *"My Father is working until now, and I am working."* What Jesus does is the evidence he is from the Father.

The Jewish leaders however do not do what God does. They claim to have Abraham as their Father in chapter 8 but they are not doing what Abraham did. Abraham believed God, but the Jews do not. They do not believe Jesus. They are doing the works of their true father, the Devil. They do not hear the truth because they are not of God. And chapter 8:47 says, *"Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."* The Jews do not hear Jesus words because they are not in his flock and refuse to listen to the truth.

If you are struggling to believe that Jesus is who he said he is, look at the works he has done in relation to the things he said and what was said about him. Look at the Old Testament and what it says about Jesus. Investigate how the entire story line of the Bible points to our need for a savior and that Jesus is that savior. He is from the Father because he does the work of the Father.

THOSE WHO ARE IN THE FLOCK BELIEVE IN HIS WORKS. (27-29, 40-42)

And now we come to the other group of people in this passage, those who came to Jesus after he left Jerusalem and went across the Jordan in verses 40-42. These people came to Jesus and believed. They knew what John the Baptist had said about Jesus and had been hearing all the works Jesus had done. They put it together and believed.

These people are part of the flock. They believe in Jesus' speech and actions. The belief that they have is the same that we are called to have. Jesus wants us to know that he is one with the Father, that Jesus equals God. He is not a mere man who did some wonderful miracles on this earth. He is the straight up Son of God. He is the perfect sacrifice for our sin. We had the wrath of God on us because of our sin and he took it. We are no longer condemned because we are in Christ Jesus. Do you believe that deep down? Do you really know both in your head and in your heart that God no longer sees your sin? It is gone, no longer there because of Jesus sacrifice. He was the only one who could do it. Belief in him is the only way to eternal life. Will you believe and follow his voice?

Those who believe in Jesus have the security of eternal life. Look at what he says in verses 28-30. No one can snatch them out of his hand and no one can snatch them from the Father's hand. You are held securely in your status. We are not like a pebble in Mr. Miyagi's hand that can be snatched away if someone is fast enough. We are help secure by the Father who is greater than all things and by his Son Jesus. Jesus and the Father hold our eternal life more secure than anything. Not even Ft Knox's 250 ton door to the vault which is deep within the basement of the building, which is surrounded by many security fences and check points, can hold us more secure. Our eternal life is more secure than whatever is happening at NORAD which is inside of Cheyenne Mountain. The only picture I could find of this place is the tunnel entrance. No thief, robber, or Satan himself can snatch a true believer from Jesus' hand.

We have looked at the importance of Jesus being God and two groups of people: those that don't believe he is God and those that do believe. Let's go back to the true/false quiz. I hope the trues are still true and know the importance of this truth. We need to know what we believe but also why it matters. Your math teachers always told you to show your work. We must know why it is so important for Jesus to be God. I hope those of you who wrote false or didn't know see the importance of Jesus being God. I want to encourage you to discover and decide who he is. Look into the works that he did while on this earth. Look at both the Old Testament and what John the Baptist said about him and compare that with the works he has done. Believing that Jesus is one with the Father makes his sacrifice on the cross worth something. He is able to hold our eternal salvation securely because he is God.

Jesus is one with the Father; his works are the evidence and call us to believe.