

The Gospel of John: The Feast of Dedication

John 10:22-42

The Setting (v. 22-23)

- Jesus stays in Jerusalem into December for the Feast of Dedication
 - An 8-day celebration of the rededication of the Temple under the Hasmoneans/Maccabees (164 BC) after its desecration by Antiochus IV (167 BC) (see Dan 9, 11, 12; 1 Macc 4:36-59)
 - Hannukah
- Jesus has moved His place of teaching from the Temple Courts to Solomon's Colonnade on the eastern side of the Temple
 - This was likely due to the colder weather
 - It's where the early Church would later gather (Acts 3:11; 5:12)

Telling It Plainly (v. 24-30)

- The Jews that gathered to hear Him, ask Jesus to tell them *plainly* if He is the Messiah
- Jesus rarely took on the title Messiah/Christ publicly due to its political & military overtones
 - Though said so privately, especially to non-Jews (4:26)
- He preferred to use other titles like Shepherd
 - Whose sheep are perfectly secure because He & His Father keep them safe
- Jesus claims that His works (miraculous signs) & teaching point to His identity plainly as God's Son
 - This title can mean Messiah (see Ps 2), but Jesus makes a greater claim than simply being the descendant of David destined to be king
 - He is claiming Trinitarian oneness with God (v. 30)

The Son of God (v. 31-38)

- His opponents understand what Jesus is claiming, but they don't believe it
 - They seek to stone Him for blasphemy because He is claiming to be God
 - This is despite the many noble/beautiful works (*erga kala*) He has performed, which show who He and His Father are
- Jesus points them to Scripture that refers to 'gods' & 'sons of the Most High' (Ps 82:6-7)
 - Rabbis taught that this text referred to Israel at the time of the giving of the Law and the golden calf episode
 - Israel is repeatedly referred to as God's son (Ex 4:21-22; Hos 11:1)
- If this is true of Israel, how much more is it true of the One the Father set apart & sent
 - Set apart (*bagiazo*): Sanctify, dedicate, make holy
 - Jesus is the Sanctified Temple that allows us to come to God in holiness
 - Thus, He fulfills the Feast of Dedication

A Strategic Retreat (v. 39-41)

- Jesus' opponents try to harm Him, but He escapes and leaves Jerusalem
- Jesus retreats to where John's Gospel begins, the site of the Baptizer's early ministry
 - He sees many put their faith in Him

So What?

- Do we believe that Jesus is God's Son who sanctifies us?

- Are we letting Him make us holy by changing our hearts, minds, and actions?

Meditation Verse: John 10:27-30

Next Week: Matthew 1:18-25