

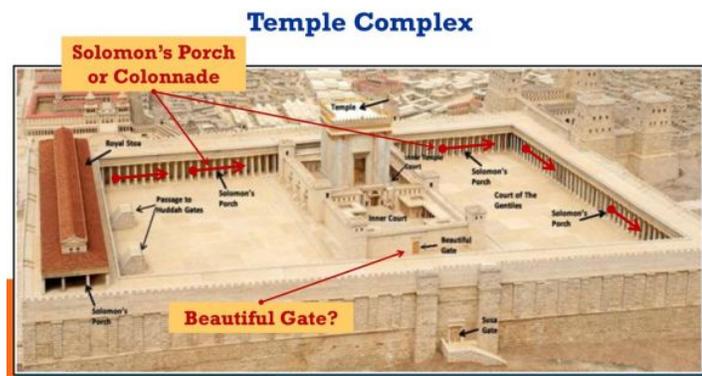
Take a moment right now to write down the thoughts going through your head so that you can focus on God's Word. What are you worried about, distracted by, need to get done, etc.

### Jesus is the Son of God

Today we will read and think deeper on Jesus' conversation with a crowd of Jewish people at the temple in Jerusalem. As we have said multiple times, John wrote this book to help us "believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). Today we will see Jesus explain to the crowd that He is the Son of God, not just a man, but truly God! It is easy to think negatively of the crowd of Jewish people who continue to reject Jesus. Instead, as you read today to think about your own beliefs of Jesus. Are they knowledge-based or have they moved you from knowledge to action in your life? Do you live by faith in the Son of God?

*\*Note on the Feast of Dedication- nowadays it is called Hanukkah or the Feast of Lights. It commemorates the reconsecration of the temple by Judas Maccabeus in 165 B.C. after its desecration in 168 B.C. by Antiochus IV (Epiphanes). The time for the eight-day feast was in December.*

**John 10:22–30** <sup>22</sup>At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So 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." <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My 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. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one."



- 1) From verse 24, in your opinion from reading the Gospel of John would you say Jesus made it clear or not He is the Christ?

- 2) From verse 27, sheep want to be shepherded and led and Jesus is saying those who follow Him are His sheep. What do you learn about being a sheep and Jesus being your shepherd?
  
- 3) From verse 28, describe what you learn about salvation from the three things Jesus says:
  - a. “I give them eternal life”-
  - b. “They will never perish”-
  - c. “No one will snatch them out of my hand”-
  - d. Circle the one that encourages you the most and explain why.
  - e. Do any of these have anything to do with the sheep doing something? Why or why not?
  
- 4) From verse 30, from the context of the surrounding verses, what did Jesus mean when He said, “I and the Father are one”? (Once you answer the question go to the end of this devotional to see a note.)

**John 10:31–39** <sup>31</sup>The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. <sup>32</sup>Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?” <sup>33</sup>The 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.” <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? <sup>35</sup>If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— <sup>36</sup>do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? <sup>37</sup>If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; <sup>38</sup>but 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.” <sup>39</sup>Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

- 5) From verses 31-32, what did Jesus’ question and the crowd’s response reveal about their heart and mind towards Jesus? What does your response to Jesus reveal about your own heart and mind toward Jesus?

- 6) We are 10 chapters out of 21 into the Gospel of John. How has your view of Jesus changed so far?
- 7) From verses 34-38, we need to do some deeper Bible study together to understand the method of logical argument Jesus is using. On a side note, one thing that makes the Bible so awesome is it can be easily understood by all and yet also takes deep study and thought.
- a. Verse 34, why is Jesus saying “your Law”? (Note: normally “the Law” refers to the first five books of the Old Testament, but here Jesus is referring to the entire Old Testament.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Verses 34-36, read Psalm 82 below and underline the verses that Jesus refers to. Note that “gods” in the Psalm means human judges; Jesus does not mean people take on a divine nature.

**Psalm 82** A PSALM OF ASAPH.

- <sup>1</sup> *God has taken his place in the divine council;  
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:*
- <sup>2</sup> *“How long will you judge unjustly  
and show partiality to the wicked? Selah*
- <sup>3</sup> *Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;  
maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.*
- <sup>4</sup> *Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”*
- <sup>5</sup> *They have neither knowledge nor understanding,  
they walk about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.*
- <sup>6</sup> *I said, “You are gods,  
sons of the Most High, all of you;*
- <sup>7</sup> *nevertheless, like men you shall die,  
and fall like any prince.”*
- <sup>8</sup> *Arise, O God, judge the earth;  
for you shall inherit all the nations!*

- c. In verses 35-36, Jesus is saying in certain circumstances men were called “gods” (with a lowercase “g”). What is the argument Jesus is using?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- d. How does Jesus help prove the Bible is without error and fault in his conversation with the crowd?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 8) From verses 37-38, there are two reasons Jesus wants them to believe in Him. What are they?
  - a.
  
  
  
  
  
  - b.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 9) From verse 38, what does Jesus ultimately want them to “know and understand” about Him? Do you “know and understand” this?

**John 10:40–42** <sup>40</sup>He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. <sup>41</sup>And many came to him. And they said, “John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.” <sup>42</sup>And many believed in him there.

- 10) What is the difference between the people’s reaction to Jesus across the Jordan river and in Jerusalem at the temple? Why is it different?

**Application**

11) Are your beliefs in Jesus simply knowledge-based or have they moved you from knowledge to action? How would you know the difference? Do you live by faith in the Son of God?

12) Jesus is the resurrected and living Son of God. How does that impact your life today?

*\*\*Note: When Jesus said, "I and the Father are One", He was not affirming that He and the Father are the same Person. The Son and the Father are two Persons in the Trinity. This is confirmed here by the fact that the word "One" is neuter. Instead, He was saying They have the closest possible unity of purpose. Jesus' will is identical to the Father's regarding the salvation of His sheep. And yet absolute identity of wills involves identity of nature. Jesus and the Father are One in will (and also in nature for both are God; cf. 20:28; Phil. 2:6; Col. 2:9).*