

John 34 – Would You Stone Jesus?

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John 10:22-42

What is Hanukkah?

- Instituted in December 2nd century B.C. with defeat of the Seleucids by the Maccabean Revolt (Gregorian)
- Only a single day's oil could be found to light the lamp in Holy Place; supposedly it lasted eight days until new oil could be ritually prepared
- Celebrated annually – Feast of Dedication or Lights
- Added to festival calendar by the Jews, like Purim' but, not by God – Neither mentioned by Father or Son

Festival of Lights

- The Jewish Festival of Lights celebrated the Temple but not the God of the Temple
- Lights (Plural) celebrates man's devotion to ritual at the expense of the Light (Singular) who walked among them
- Never a provision to *add* festivals to God's calendar
- Obliterated the eschatological meaning of the festivals
- Their lights, at night, hid the true Light from them

The Temple-Hanukkah

- Again, Jesus is at Solomon Porticos - Winter
- Hanukkah (Festival of Lights) - Jew's festival
- Lights of men approached the Light of the World; but, not to seek truth



Hanukkah celebrated so called miracle of oil for the Lamps during Maccabean Revolt
They did not understand the significance of the oil (Spirit) or the light (Christ) (Jo 1:45, 9:13)

Are You the Christ?

- Taken out of context this appears to be a legitimate question; however, in the context of John's Gospel the Jews asked this question seeking Christ to incriminate Himself so they could bring charges and execute Him
 - So important to read verses in context to a gain proper hermeneutical appreciation of their true meaning
 - These are not His sheep; these Jews are goats (Mt: 25:31-46)

Who Are the Jews?

- Probably members of the Sanhedrin (Pharisees) and possibly priests (Sadducees) also; both felt threatened
 - Jesus said that only those drawn to Him by the Father could understand His message (Jo 6:44)
 - These people obviously do not understand (accept) His message of salvation, the Father or Himself
 - These people are obsessed with religion, not truth

Who is Blasphemous?

- To understand the motivation for their question we need to look at Jesus' trial 04:26-63:60
 - The court could not convict Jesus with false witnesses
 - They turn to Jesus asking this very question, "Are you the Christ [Messiah], the Son of God?"
 - They use His answer to condemn Him to death
- These men did not seek light; they sought death {Dark}

Christ Answers The Question

- Here, Christ does not give them a direct answer because it is not yet His time {Stauros}
 - He does tell them that they have heard His messages and do not believe - Messages contain their answers
 - Unbelief blinded them to the truth of God keeping them in darkness
 - Lost cannot accept the truth of God; it is foolishness to them (1Co 2:14)

Christ's Works Also Testify of Him

- Christ points to the works {miracles} He has done as proof of who He is {Second Witness}
 - Christ tells them openly that they do not believe because they are not His sheep, referencing His earlier teaching (Jn 10:1-21)
 - This reference probably means Christ's teaching about sheep and shepherds occurred earlier; they are the false shepherds seeking to destroy Him, the Good Shepherd

Hearing the Voice

- Christ reinforces that the *called* sheep hear His voice and follow Him; i.e., He knows them
 - Since they cannot accept His message they are not His sheep; i.e., they remained confused, in darkness
 - They prove this: They reject Him and seek to kill Him
 - If they were able to *hear* His truth they would seek salvation evidenced by repentance of their sin, obviously they do not repent; they attack, justifying themselves

Security of the Saved

- Christ uses this interaction to state a significant truth
 - Christ gives believers eternal life - No second death
 - Once saved, no one can be unsaved
 - All who are saved are in both His and the Father's hand
 - No one is greater than the Father (Infinite)
 - Jesus then says, "I and the Father are One."

What is Meant by the One

- Logical fallacy of equivocation: confused meanings {Violation of the Law of Identity} (Jo 1:14; 5:19-23)
 - Christ has plainly said that He is *not* the Father; i.e., Son
 - There is oneness of relationship but not of person
 - The Jews however substitute their own meaning; i.e., Jesus is claiming to be God {same as the Father}
 - This demonstrates they cannot hear truth, only error

Stone Him!

- They reveal the intent of their question by condemning Him for blasphemy; thus, they seek to stone Him
 - Christ asks for which *work* will they stone Him?
 - Their answer: ignore works, seek contrived blasphemy
 - Back to the healed blind man's logic: God does not hear sinners, never has anyone healed a man born blind, Jesus healed him; ergo, God hears Him meaning He, Jesus, is not a sinner but of God as Nicodemus also said (Jn 3:2, 9,30-33)

All Men Are God's Sons

- Jesus reminds them what the Bible says, which they claim to believe, but really do not believe (Jn 8:24-7)
 - All people are made in God's image; ergo, all people are sons of God (Ge 2:7)
 - Yet, because of sin all men die {born as sin}
- If then they are sons of God {fallen}, how can they stone Him for saying He is God's Son {not fallen}?

Logic Does Not Convert the Lost

- Christ has them trapped by the truth of the Bible
 - They cannot refute the Bible, it is the basis for their religion; i.e., Mosaic Law {Torah or Pentateuch}
 - Christ came to make all who believe restored sons of God, enjoined in the same relationship He enjoys with the Father: Oneness based on individual uniqueness
 - The choice: Judge yourself {repent} or have God judge you from your own words and works {unrepentant} (La 3:40; Mt 7:1-5; Re 20:12-14)

Christ Again Appeals to Works

- Since He has destroyed their charge of blasphemy He again appeals to His works which they cannot deny
 - If He is doing works of Lucifer: do not believe Him
 - Even if they do not believe Christ, believe the works
 - People know Christ is of God based on His works (Jo 3:2)
- The works prove that He is in the Father and the Father is in Him or else He could not do these miracles

Once again, the healed blind man's logic, and Christ's, reveals their hatred for His Light. The lost cannot accept the truth of God no matter how irrefutable; they can only rage against Him.

Arrest Him!

- Demonstration that truth, logic and Bible do not turn the lost mind to salvation – they run to violence (Ro 1:10-18)
 - Nothing brings the lost to God's truth except God
 - Jesus never *Jedi* mind-tricked anyone into salvation
 - He spoke truth and God, via the Spirit, either removed darkness {salvation} {us} or let them remain in darkness {lost}, which they love (Jo 1:9-13; Ro 1:18-25)

Christ Returns to Baptism Site

- Jesus leaves Jerusalem returning to baptism site
- Many were attracted, called, to Him
- While John Baptist did no signs, all he said of Jesus was true – Many believed



Sandwiched Between Two Miracles

- Christ's great truths of the shepherds, Good and evil, and security of the believer were highlighted by two tremendous miracles: man born blind; man who died
- Christ's truth of the shepherds was aptly demonstrated by the Jews harassment and attempted murder of Him at Hanukkah
- They were not His sheep, but were evil shepherds who sought to destroy the flock; they were Lucifer's agents

Christendom Would Stone Him

- Much of what is called Christianity today is simply Christendom: that which masquerades as Christian
- These religions emphases agrees with the world: man is good; God is evil (Theodicy)
- Evangelical churches increasingly turn to scientism, succumbing to the world's philosophy, growing dark
- These would stone Christ today if they could; they exemplify Christ's warnings to the churches - judgment

(Re 2-3)

Would you stone Christ if He came today and revealed your faith as religious?

Revelation reveals that empirical evidence alone does not bring salvation.

(Re 6:15-17)

Upping the Ante

- As the Jews became more belligerent, Christ's works became more miraculous; i.e., harder to deny (Ro 5:20-21)
- Displaying fulness of God's promise to believers - Life
- Condemning those who did not believe - Hardening their hearts to His truth of life: Salvation (Ro 9:14-24; 11:5-6)
- Next He will raise the dead displaying His power to raise His sheep from the grave at His coming (1Co 15:51-53)