

Mad Man or God-Man?

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 10:22-42.

B. This event takes place in Solomon's portico during the feast of Hanukkah that celebrated liberation from Antiochus 165 years previously.

C. Jesus returns to resume His role as the Great Shepherd of Israel and to arrange for His final return to offer Himself as the Lamb of God.

II. The Pharisees questioned whether Jesus is the Messiah, and Jesus responds by saying that He already had told them even though He never spoke explicitly about it.

A. The reason is that Jesus had a different idea of what the Messiah was than the Pharisees who believed that He would be a conquering figure.

B. Three basic reasons for unbelief in Jesus.

1. It is not because of a lack of information. Jesus was telling people who He was through His deeds. (Isaiah 35)

2. The Pharisees rejected Jesus' works by selecting the information that was convenient for them from the Scriptures.

3. The Pharisees did not believe because they never came to Jesus personally. We need to humble ourselves and come to Jesus.

III. Jesus and His sheep.

A. How one can tell a true Christian from a mere professor.

1. Jesus' sheep hear His voice—they are drawn to what He has to say.

2. The true believer has a sense that he belongs to God.

3. The true believer obeys Jesus.

4. Why a sheep acts this way.

a. Jesus keeps on giving the believer eternal life—this refers to a quality of life.

b. This quality of life is sure—it will never end, and we will never perish.

B. Whether a true Christian can be lost after he or she has been born again.

IV. Jesus claims that He and God are one.

A. The Jews understand this to be a claim of deity and find this grounds for stoning Him.

B. Jesus replied by arguing that the Scripture calls judges gods, so He should not be stoned for claiming to be called the Son of God.

Application questions:

1. What reasons do you see for unbelief in Jesus today? Do these parallel the Pharisees' reasons?

2. What effect does knowing that there is eternal security in salvation have on your walk with Jesus? Explain.

3. What are marks you can look for to spot a true believer? How can one wisely and in a loving manner respond to one that does not show these signs?
