

**The Word Became Flesh**  
**Week 31**  
**John 10:30-42 CSB**  
**“A Final Appeal”**

**Introduction**

**“I and The Father are one.”**

**John 10:30**

It is so very important for us as Believers to never give up on those whom we are praying for. As we endeavor to be obedient to Christ’s command for us to “go and make disciples”, it is easy for us to become discouraged, when our best efforts seem to fall upon deaf ears. But make no mistake, God can use your faithful witness long after you are no longer around. While we may know what God commands us to do, we are not always in-the-know of what **He** is doing. God doesn’t always “check in” with us to let us know how our testimony is being used. He just commands us to be witnesses.

I am awestruck as I read the Gospel of John and see how very patient that Jesus was with the Jewish leaders, who wanted Him dead. As we get to the end of **Chapter Ten**, we see Him making one final appeal to them, even as they are taking up stones to bludgeon Him to death! That kind of love is hard for us to even fathom, but it is the kind of love that all followers of Christ are commanded to possess.

**“You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven.”**

**Matthew 5:43-44**

We live in a world today that is filled with hatred. Wickedness is seemingly operating unchecked all around us, and while we are disgusted by the sin, we must continue to love the sinner. As I am certain that most of you are aware, at the Academy Awards Ceremony this past week, a comedian told a pretty insulting joke about another entertainers wife, which subsequently, inspired the man to walk up on stage and strike the comic in the face.

Now first of all, I don’t watch the Hollywood awards shows. I do not feel the need to participate in events where the most narcissistic people on the face of the earth all gather in one place in order to take turns congratulating themselves on their greatness. That being said, I have been rather astounded hearing the different viewpoints of the masses in regards to which of these two “stars” were at fault for the confrontation. Some blame the comic for his lack of sensitivity, while others blame the actor for his lack of self control. Can I tell you the truth this morning? If both of those men had been followers of Jesus Christ, then the event would have never occurred in the first place!

For you see, If the comedian truly loved as Jesus loved, he would have never told a joke at his brother’s expense. And had the actor loved as Jesus loved, he certainly would have never struck the comedian for his transgression. Why should this matter to us? We are not called to react as the world does, when we are insulted or things do not go our way. We are called to love those who persecute us, in the hopes that they will see Christ living in us and long for the peace that we have in Him!

Jesus set this example for us, and He will also enable us to live it out in real life. We, as followers of Christ, can **be** like Christ in all things, because Christ lives **in us!** We cannot make a difference *in* this world if we are no different *from* this world. Simple as that. As easy as it is to allow our flesh to take over, it is vital that we allow The Spirit of God to control our actions in all things.

**Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outburst of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things — as I warned you before — that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of The Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and SELF-CONTROL. The Law is not against such things.**

**Galatians 5:19-23**

Keeping this in mind, I want to make an appeal to you this morning to live as Christ lives. To follow His commands in all circumstances so that this corrupt world can see the hope of Christ in us. Let us look at not only His testimony about Himself, but the effects of the testimony of a faithful witness can have upon others. In the last portion of **John Chapter 10**, we see a charge of *Blasphemy*, the witness of *The Baptizer*, and its effect upon the *Believers*.

**The “Blasphemy” (vs. 30-39)**

**“...I and the Father are one.” Again the Jews picked up rocks to stone him. Jesus replied, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these works are you stoning me?” “We aren’t stoning you for a good work,” the Jews answered, “but for blasphemy, because you—being a man—make Yourself God.” Jesus answered them, “Isn’t it written in your law. I said, you are gods? If he called those to whom the word of God came ‘gods’ — and the Scripture cannot be broken — do you say, ‘You are blaspheming’ to the One the Father set apart and sent into the world, because I said: I Am the Son of God? If I am not doing my Father’s works, don’t believe Me. But if I am doing them and you don’t believe Me, believe the works. This way you will know and understand that the Father is in Me and I in the Father.” Then they were trying again to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.**

**John 10: 30-39**

It is important to remember that this event took place near the end of December, during the celebration of Hanukkah. This was just a few months before The LORD would be crucified at the behest of these very same Jewish leaders, who are arguing with Him in this passage. He knew their hearts and their hatred of Him, and yet, rather than condemn them, He makes one final appeal for them to believe in Him. For God so loved... the **world**. If these men had simply listened to His testimony about Himself, then they could have been forgiven and delivered from God’s wrath. But instead, they wanted to kill Him. And why is that? Because He claimed to be God incarnate!

There are many in this world who try and argue that Jesus never claimed to be God. But He does so in this particular exchange with absolute certainty. The Pharisees knew exactly what He was saying. This is why they wanted to kill Him. Listen once more to the exchange between The Jewish leaders and the Son of God, as they take up stones to kill Him:

**“I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these works are you stoning me?” “We aren’t stoning you for a good work,” the Jews answered, “but for blasphemy, because you — being a man — make Yourself God.”**

**John 10:32-33**

It is ridiculous to argue that Jesus never offered up any claims of His deity. The Pharisees knew that this was exactly Who He was claiming to be, and they were enraged by this claim. To them it was a blasphemous utterance worthy of death. Notwithstanding all the miraculous proof that Jesus had offered to the contrary. They couldn’t explain away the miracles that He had performed, so instead, they chose to ignore them as proof of His testimony. It is almost inconceivable that a person could witness such powerful signs and yet not understand that God was working in their midst! But that is exactly what these men did.

The charge was “blasphemy”, and the irony here is made abundantly clear by Jesus’ response. He always knows just what Scripture to be adequately applied in every circumstance. And this exchange is no exception. Jesus referenced a passage in **Psalm 82** to rebut their false charges.

**“Isn’t it written in your law. I said, you are gods? If He called those to whom the word of God came ‘gods’ — and the Scripture cannot be broken — do you say, ‘You are blaspheming’ to the One the Father set apart and sent into the world, because I said: I Am the Son of God?”**

**John 10:34-36**

What a perfect response! And the irony of it was completely lost upon the Pharisees. Allow me to explain. **Psalm 82** is an indictment upon those whom God has called to leadership that have been unfaithful to Him. He gave them His very Word by which to govern, and as such, His Word had empowered them as “gods” (small g). Many who had been chosen to be God’s ambassadors and had failed miserably at the task. This is the message of **Psalm 82**, and these Pharisees were the perfect example of those who had been entrusted with the Word of God, but had failed in leading by its example.

So what is Jesus saying? That is was not He Who had blasphemed God, but rather, it was the religious leaders of Israel who had done so by not believing The Word of God! God Himself had validated Jesus claims by enabling Him to do the wonders that He had done. Even the blind beggar had seen this reality. Remember what he said to the Pharisees, when they questioned him?

**"This is an amazing thing!" the man told them. "You don't know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He listens to him. Throughout history no one has ever heard of someone opening the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He wouldn't be able to do anything."** **John 9:30-33**

Pretty much says it all doesn't it? The Pharisees couldn't recognize the truth when it was staring them in the face. They knew the Word of God better than anyone, and yet, they refused to see Jesus, Who is The Word made flesh. They were exactly the kind of leaders that are warned in **Psalm 82**. Listen to what God says to those whom He has entrusted with His Word and yet have failed to rule justly by its decrees.

**I said, "You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High. However, you will die like humans and fall like any other ruler."** **Psalm 82:6**

What a tragedy it is to hear the Word of The LORD and still refuse to accept its truth. Jesus pleaded with those men, saying that if they would not trust His testimony, then to observe the miracles that He had done and believe that He truly is The Son of God. Rather than condemn them as enemies, He pleaded with them to believe and be forgiven. This is the very heart of God, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for US (**Romans 5:8**)! He didn't hate them, even as they picked up stones to kill Him. Instead He gave them yet another opportunity to believe. Once more they refused, and He disappeared from their sight. This is the grim reality for those who refuse to place their trust in Christ. One day, it will be too late.

**Seek The LORD while He may be found; call to Him while He is near.** **Isaiah 55:6**

### **The Baptizer (vs. 40-41)**

**So he departed again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there. Many came to him and said, "John never did a sign, but everything John said about this man was true."** **John 10:40-41**

Jesus left the Pharisees. The next time they would see Him would be the following spring during the Passover, when The Lamb of God would return to Jerusalem to be slaughtered for the sins of the world. Jesus returned to the region where His ministry had first begun nearly three years prior. He went back across the Jordan to the place where John The Baptist had baptized Him. There were still some there who would come to faith and be healed.

When Jesus returned to where it all began, the people there who had followed after John the Baptist, placed their faith in Christ. And I love what they said about the Baptizer:

**"John never did a sign, but everything John said about this man was true."** **John 10:41**

Now John the Baptist was dead and gone at this point, but his **testimony** was still very much alive! For you see, this is the only thing about us that will live on when we are gone. Our testimony about Jesus will live forever. Earlier I referenced the Academy Awards, where the foolish of this world love to hear the crowds cheering their names. John had no such ambition. He lived by one simple unselfish creed.

**"He must increase, but I must decrease."** **John 3:30**

Would you like to know a sure fire way that a person is serving Christ for the right reason? Look to see whether or not they long for recognition. When is the last time you saw an awards show for the

preacher of the year? “And the award for “Best Sermon” goes to... How ridiculous would that be? And if I may be a little controversial here, I don’t think Christian musicians/singers ought to do it either. I think that we all should want to bring glory to Christ and Christ alone. He is our “audience of one”. Every Believer should be encouraged to praise Him alone and to forgo the praise of others! Want to leave a lasting legacy? Then live for Christ and die to self. Do that and your testimony will live forever.

John the Baptist never performed a single miracle in his life. He just preached repentance and Jesus. And His message is still being repeated some two thousand years later. For you see, its not miracles that make people believe, it is the Word of God.

**So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ. Romans 10:17**

A truthful and careful study of The Scriptures will reveal that God has performed fewer miracles than you might think. Miracles were given in order for those who saw them to believe the message that followed. For example: the miracles that Moses performed for the Israelites were so they would believe the books of The Law that followed. The miracles that were seen in the times of Elijah and Elisha were offered just before the writings of the prophets. Likewise the Miracles of Jesus and His disciples were wrought just before the unveiling of *The New Testament*. Miracles were given so that The Word would be believed. This is why we no longer need the miraculous today. We have the completed Word of God to enable us to believe. If we don’t believe in that, then a miracle won’t change our minds on the subject. Don’t believe me? Just ask those Pharisees. Miracles didn’t convince them of the truth.

So what is the message? Live a life of testimony. Share God’s Word with any who will listen and your legacy will continue long after you are gone. Just ask the Baptizer.

### **The Believers (vs. 42)**

**And many believed in him there. John 10:42**

And to sum it all up, when Jesus returned to where John had preached, the people were ready to believe. When they saw The Christ with their own eyes, they knew that every sermon that John had preached about Him was true. And as a result, they placed their faith in Christ.

Let this be a lesson to us all. John preached, and some three years later, these people believed. John never saw these conversions. He might have even thought that some of them might never come to faith. But the seeds He planted were watered by The Spirit, and The Son had finally come to reap the harvest! We have no idea when God will take what we say and bring someone to saving faith, but that should never deter us from sharing our testimony! God’s timing is ALWAYS perfect. So be a witness. Do not be discouraged when you think you are not having an impact, for it is impossible for God’s Word not to bring forth results.

**For just as rain and snow fall from heaven and do not return there without saturating the earth and making it germinate and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat, so My Word that comes from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do. Isaiah 55:10-11**

Thus sayeth The LORD! So do not **Blaspheme** His Holy Name by unbelief. Believe the testimony of Jesus Christ and be saved. Then become like the **Baptizer** and tell those who will listen and **Believe**. This is the way to abundant life and a lasting legacy of faith!

And let the Believers all say... TRUTH!!!