

# 41. Jesus is God, any questions?

July 17, 2011

You may remember a TV public service announcement that made a big hit around late 80s and early 90s – “This is your brain on drugs” with the narrator’s voice over the image of an egg on a hot frying pan that showed a frying egg. The commercial ended with a simple and famous sentence that grabbed many people’s attention: “Any questions?”

This ad campaign was made because a large number of people were getting into destructive drug culture that came from 60s, 70s, and 80s. These people who were using illegal addictive drugs were not getting the fact that they were pretty much frying their brains with those drugs. Actually, there are more people who are using illegal drugs now than ever before.

For over two and a half years, Jesus has been telling people that He is the Son of God, the Messiah, and God Himself in many different ways. But they were just like drug addicts who were not getting at all. I don’t know what they’d been smoking or snorting, but these Jewish religious leaders were determined to kill Jesus no matter what.

The final section of chapter 10 of the Book of John closes the public ministry of Jesus Christ. He only has less than four months left before He will end up on the cross. After this chapter, Jesus will not give any public messages, nor do any miracles. He pretty much spends His time with His disciples and preparing them before His departure to heaven.

As the last public message to the people around Him as well as the Pharisees with blood-thirsty eyes, Jesus once again speaks about His true identity – the Son of God, the Messiah, and God Himself. When He finishes, these Pharisees want to kill Him again. Actually, there are more people who are adamantly against Jesus than ever before – not necessarily by the sheer increase of the population, but the percentage of unbelievers.

## A. AGAIN?

*John 10:22-24 Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. 23 And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon’s porch. 24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, “How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.”*

The “Feast of the Dedication” – a.k.a. Hanukkah or “the feast of lights” – takes place in December, near the time of the Christian Christmas celebration. The feast commemorates the rededication of the temple by Judas Maccabees in 164 B.C., after it had been desecrated by king Antiochus IV Epiphanes of the Seleucid Empire.

Antiochus Epiphanes was in love himself which was not uncommon among kings and presidents of the countries like somebody we have to put up with. So Antiochus gave himself an extra name ‘Epiphanes’ which means ‘The great one.’ He was a lover of Greek things, anything to do with Greek – Greek art, Greek philosophy, Greek sports, big fat Greek wedding, and Greek religion. He thought that he could establish in Palestine all of Greek culture by removing everything the local people had including Judaism.

In 170 B.C., Antiochus conquered Jerusalem. He slaughtered a pig on the altar of sacrifice spreading the pig's blood throughout the temple which was a total desecration against Judaism. He set up an idol of Zeus in the temple and put an end to all of the Jewish festivals.

A few years later, a group of Jewish priests under the leadership of Judas Maccabees revolted against this Greek empire and they were able to gain independence and reestablished correct worship in the temple and set up a festival called 'the Festival of Light.'

Between the last confrontation with the Pharisees from chapter 10 verses 11-21 and this event in v22, there was a gap of two and a half months. In chapter 7 verse 2, Jesus went to Jerusalem right after the Feast of Tabernacle and stayed there. In other words, all the events recorded in chapter 7 through two thirds of chapter 10 happened during that time.

If someone reads v24 only, that person would think that these Pharisees are truly seeking the truth of God and desiring to know Jesus, but Jesus is the one who gives them hard times by not revealing His identity. Far from the truth!

These Jewish religious leaders decided that it was time for a showdown and they did not want Jesus to live any longer.

## **B. DOUBT AND UNBELIEF**

*John 10:25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.*

It is not like they've never heard Jesus' claims before. Oh, they did, but so far it was not the time for them to seize Him and kill Him. They wanted another chance.

Listen, there is a big difference between honest doubt and cynical unbelief. Actually, doubt is looking for answers from the truth, but unbelief, flat out, doesn't care about the truth. Everybody struggles with spiritual reality that does not make sense in every way. You have had some doubts about Christianity and I've had them, too.

Doubt is not necessarily the enemy of our faith in Christ Jesus, nor the opposite of our faith in Him. Doubt often leads the inquiring heart to the truth by seeking answers from it. But unbelief, from the beginning, makes a staunch decision to stand against the truth at all cost because the truth is against the unbelief's real desires – getting one's way without any accountability from God.

An old English proverb that was popularized by a Bible commentator Matthew Henry says, "There is none so blind as those who will not see" is so true. That is unbelief.

The vast majority of the world population is not Christian. But for their own comfort's sake, they believe that they are going to go to heaven after they die. How? Because they think that all religions lead to the same God as Reverend Oprah Winfrey insists.

Really? Tell that to any of staunch Islam believers and see what happens. You might consider ducking when his face becomes red, starts to yell something in Arabic at the top of his lung and is ready to chop off your head. The followers of Islam believe that there is only one way to Allah, their way. Ask Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons if all religions lead to the same God. They will look at you like you're on crack cocaine.

Not all religions lead to the same God. As a matter of fact, contrary to many people's opinion, Jesus demands His way exclusively.

*Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

What does Christianity have that makes it be the right one over all the other religions in the world? The Bible and Israel. The Bible itself proves its authenticity for the last 4000 years like no other manuscripts around the world. According to the biblical prophecies regarding Israel, like no other countries in human history, Israel came back from over the 1800 years of its non-existence. If you want to know more about the authenticity of the Bible, stop by the Chapel Bookstore before you leave and grab this book which I put together. Relax, I don't get paid for the sale of this book.

### **C. NO ONE CAN SNATCH THEM OUT OF THE FATHER'S HAND**

*John 10:26-29 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*

The reason why the majority of the world population doesn't believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord is the unbelief of their own free will which God the Father confirms it as their decision for their eternal destiny.

From the human perspective, we become the followers of Jesus by our own free will, but from the divine perspective, we believe because we are His followers by God's sovereignty.

In the Bible, divine election and human free will are perfectly balanced. Many theologians and their followers from each side – Calvinism (a.k.a. Reformed theology) and Arminianism – argue that they are right. They are missing the true target, Satan. The idea of demanding other Christians choose one or another is pure demonic and prideful.

Just accept the fact that God has the total capability to know which eternal destination a person would choose with one's free will, and the Lord simply established each person's eternal destiny according to one's decision. Leave it at that. By the way, if you are looking for an argument from me about this issue, please don't bother.

### **D. I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE**

*John 10:30-33 I and My Father are one." 31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" 33 The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."*

"I and the Father" preserves the separate individuality of the two Persons in the Godhead. The word "one" – 'heis' in Greek – means unity of nature or equality of two Persons.

The Jews were quick to understand the meaning of this statement and reacted by preparing to stone Jesus for blasphemy because He, a mere man in their opinion,

had asserted that He was one with God. For them Jesus' statement did not mean simply agreement of thought or purpose but carried a metaphysical implication of deity. The Father and the Son functioned as one.

Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons insist that Jesus Christ never had claimed to be God in the Bible. Of course, He never did according to their fabricated bibles. Their Jesus is NOT the same Jesus of the Bible

If you've been with us throughout the studies in the Book of John, you've noticed that Jesus claimed to be the Messiah, the Son of God and God Himself time after time. You have to be one of those unbelievers not to notice them.

### **E. I AM THE SON OF GOD**

*John 10:34-36 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods" ' 35 If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), 36 do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"*

Jesus is quoting Psalm 82:6 to the Pharisees who know the OT like the back of their hand.

*Psalm 82:6 I said, "You are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High.*

Jesus is using a typical, rabbinical argument – arguing from the lesser to the greater. Psalm 82:6 represents God as addressing a group of human judges whom He calls "gods" – 'elohim' in Hebrew – and "sons of the Most High."

If, then, these terms can be applied to ordinary mortal human beings, how could Jesus be accused of blasphemy when He applies them to Himself whom God the Father sanctified and sent into the world on a special mission? Blasphemy only applies to the ones who are not God, but yet claim to be God. Jesus is not offering a false claim; rather He is merely pointing out what He is by rights.

### **F. REFUSING ANOTHER INVITATION OF JESUS**

*John 10:37-39 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him." 39 Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand.*

If these Pharisees were truly seeking the Messiah as they claimed, they would come to an honest and irrefutable conclusion by simply examining the miracles He did that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, and God Himself.

Once again, they ignored the truth and tried to arrest Jesus, but He escaped and left Jerusalem completely until "Palm Sunday" when He presented Himself as Israel's King.

### **G. MANY BELIEVED IN HIM**

*John 10:40-42 And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed. 41 Then many came to Him and said, "John performed no sign, but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true." 42 And many believed in Him there.*

I am sure that it must have been a refreshing time for Jesus to have no hostile people who constantly wanted to kill Him, but to have the ones who believed in Him as their Messiah.

Just like the Pharisees of the time of Jesus, there are many people who today call themselves the elites or intellectuals of the society and do not believe in Jesus of the Bible. It doesn't matter what they refuse to believe or why. The fact is that they are not the believers of Jesus Christ of the Bible who is God.

I told you about a frying egg on a hot frying pan at the beginning of this teaching. I am going to take it to spiritual level. Consider the egg as your soul if you are not a born-again believer of Jesus Christ. Then consider that hot, searing frying pan as hell. When you deny the loving invitation of Jesus Christ continuously to your last breath, that is where your soul is going to end up in the hot burning hell eternally. Any questions?

## **H. APPLICATIONS**

1) When we have a doubt in our hearts regarding God's will or His ways, seek Him to give us wisdom to understand His way; or His peace that would guard our hearts from the demonic attacks.

2) God doesn't ask for our inputs or opinions for our future, so don't volunteer to give some to Him. He wants our obedience and trust in Him.

3) Don't get into the never-ending doctrinal disputes and arguments with fellow believers in Christ that divide the body of Christ. Our enemy is satan, not each other.

4) **Jeremiah 29:12-14a** *Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, says the Lord*