

## John Ch 10:22-42

“Safe And Secure”

Jesus said, *“Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers”*. Luke 12:42-46

The moral to that story is clear, the Lord is coming back, and it's going to happen at an hour when we're not aware, when we're least expecting it, at a time when we might otherwise be of the personal persuasion that the Lord is delaying His coming. and Jesus is illustrating to us how that in the end it's possible that the *same servant* could have two potentially different outcomes, predicated upon his obedience, or disobedience to the master's directions for his life during the interim period of his physical absence. and If the servant is obedient to the master's will, and his word, then he'll reap the rewards of obedience, but if he should choose to be disobedient, the results will be eternally disastrous.

In the book of Revelation Jesus said to the church of Sardis, *“These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: 'I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”* Rev 3:1-6

The implication there being that their names were currently *in* the Book of Life. But if they didn't begin to bear fruits worthy of repentance, then by their own decision they would forfeit their names to be blotted out of the Book of Life.

Perhaps you're thinking, "What does this have to do with John ch 10?" Throughout the bible, as you study and go through it, occasionally you're confronted with what we call a paradox, 2 equal truth's that seem to run side by side, both taught equally as passionate in the scriptures, but it's not with in our finite understanding to reconcile how they coexist. So that in one sense the bible teaches that you don't choose God, but that He chooses you, but just as passionately one can make the case that God's not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance, and *whoever* calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved, demonstrating that the doorway of salvation is open to whoever desires to take advantage of it.

People have tried to rationalize these things, some say, "From the human perspective it's choice, from the divine perspective it's election." Or "From the human standpoint we become His sheep by believing, but from the Divine we believe *because* we're His sheep." I personally don't think I've ever heard an explanation that does the divine harmony between free will and sovereign election justice. All I know is that the bible says, "*For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.*" Isa 55:8-9 and The bible teaches us that with out faith it's impossible to please God, and I suppose if I understood it all than I may as well *be* God. I was never asked to understand all of the Word of God, I was just asked to believe it, to take it by faith. We find that all the epistles were written for corrective measures. You know, "This lifestyle is becoming of a believer, but anyone who practices this, this and this, won't inherit the kingdom of God."

So that the bible teaches both, divine initiative, and human responsibility, but yet at the same time the bible teaches *Divine* responsibility due to human *incapability*. So that from the inception of your relationship with God unto it's culmination when you see Him face to face, from beginning to end, He's done the whole thing. He's begun the work, He's finished it, He's the author and the finisher of our faith. and Believe me when I tell you that the last thing that I'm trying to do is confuse you, or even place a question mark where Jesus has placed a period. But I'm trying to demonstrate the need to take in the whole counsel of the Word of God lest we be driven to one extreme at the expense of the balance of the other. Because today we come to one of those passages that deal with the keeping power of *God*, the faithfulness of *God* to preserve your eternal destiny. But I by no means want to somehow alleviate your personal responsibility to be the faithful and wise steward.

So as we go thru the scriptures there are those times where it seems like it's all up to you, and your choice will bring about the *ramifications* that makes for your eternal *destination*. But then there are other times when it's real clear that your eternal fate has nothing to do with your ability at all, and everything to do with God's ability to keep you and preserve you. Understanding that having begun the work in you, He'll be faithful to complete the work until the day of Jesus Christ

Our responsibility is to simply teach the word at face value, believe me when I say that God's not confused over the issue at all, He's got it all under control, but I just wanted you to be

aware of the fact that as we go through the bible, we teach it for what it says. When the exhortation comes to bear fruits worthy of repentance, we want to be careful to heed that warning and respond accordingly. When the bible encourages us to rest in the keeping power of Jesus Christ, we want to thank God that it's never been about me or you and our ability in the 1<sup>st</sup> place, and that the Good Shepherd, when He starts out with 100 sheep, He's going to end up with 100 sheep, because He's faithful to keep that which has been entrusted to Him. Amen? If you're life's been entrusted to Him, you can be sure that He'll never lose you.

The remainder of this Ch, which deals with the confrontation of Jesus by these Jewish leaders, reveals Jesus to us in 2 general roles. #1 In Vs22-30 "The keeping of the saved." and #2 In Vs 31-42, "The calling of the sinner." Let's look at this 1<sup>st</sup> portion together.

### Vs22-30

Vs 22 gives us a timeline clue, you recall that Ch 7 up to vs 21 of Ch 10 has revolved around and/or happened shortly after the Feast of Tabernacles. Which is to say the latter portion of October. So between vs 21-22 there's been about a 2-month span of time because we read here that this confrontation took place at the Feast of Dedication, which took place at the latter portion of December (So Jesus is about 3½ months out from the cross). and The Jews still celebrate this feast today, it's more commonly known to us as Hanukkah or the Feast of Lights. and It began as a celebration around 164 B.C. due to the re-consecration of the temple by Judas Maccabeaus after it's desecration by Epiphanes Antiochus around 168 B.C. So it was a time of celebration, and a time of remembering their deliverance from the oppression and bondage of the Syrians. and That's a significant point, and John draws our attention to this to remind us that the Jews were looking for a political Messiah, just like Moses delivered them from Egypt, and Judas Maccabeaus delivered them from the Syrians, so now they're looking to be delivered from the Romans. But Jesus' mission had nothing to do with the deliverance of the nation from political oppression. His mission was much greater, His deliverance was to be from sin and death, He came to set the captives of *sin* free, not the captives of Rome. But these guys just refused to receive that, and thus John points out, "it was winter."

Again, perhaps I'm over spiritualizing this simple statement, but to me the connotation behind this phrase, "it was winter" spells out something very clear, harvest time was over. Jesus is finished with His public proclamations, from this point on Jesus talks to His own. Jesus has told them and told them that they were on limited time, and in His grace He extends Himself yet one more time, but from this point on Jesus won't appeal to them again. Their sad plight at this point is coined in Jer Ch 8, "*The harvest is past, The summer is ended, And we are not saved!*" Jer 8:20 Now there are 2 applications to this, for those who are saved, you have a limited time to be effective in your service unto the Lord, God has a plan for your life, and it revolves around a span of time, but winter is coming, soon the time for you to bring in the harvest will be past. and Who within the sphere of your influence, of my influence won't be saved?

But then 2<sup>ndly</sup> to the unbeliever it's a wake up call. There's a limited time that you have to receive Jesus Christ There comes a point when after rejecting His offer, and rejecting His offer,

He just won't offer anymore, and to leave this planet apart from receiving Jesus Christ is to seal your fate, the harvest is past, the summer will have ended, and you won't be saved. How important it is to respond to the invitation of salvation thru Jesus Christ when it's extended lest winter be upon you before you know it, and you're not saved.

#### Vs23-24

Here they are at the feast of lights, the Light of the world right in front of them, and though the lights are on, they're just not home. Remember this feast stirs them towards the desire of a political deliverance; their eyes are on a temporal deliverance. How often people make the same mistake today, they get their eyes on the temporal, on the here and now at the expense of the eternal. How important it is to maintain the eternal perspective, Jesus is there to deliver them that's for sure, but they don't want the deliverance He's offering, they're preoccupied with this life, with their immediate predicament. and They've lost sight of the greater need, now as you know Jesus would speak to them in parables, or enigmas, but if they were to just listen He told them plainly as well. How much plainer can it get than, "*...if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.*" John 8:24 Or "*Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.*" John 8:58 and That's just a couple of examples, but Jesus never denied who He was and *often* times He made it real clear, but they're more interested in politics, they want out from under Rome, Jesus' mission isn't *political*, it's *personal*, it doesn't deal with *politics*, it deals with *people*.

#### Vs25-26

You see He takes them right back the conversation He was having with them 2 months ago, regarding Himself as the Good Shepherd, and how His sheep hear His voice and respond to His Word, but they don't hear what He's trying to say, and they don't respond to His word because they're not His sheep. I pray that you respond to the word of God for your life today, because it bears witness to the fact that you're His sheep. But in vs 25 Jesus draws their attention to 2 specific details that they can look to in order to determine who He is, #1 His Word, and #2 His works. He says 1<sup>st</sup> off, "I told you" (which we pointed out a minute ago).

Jesus said things like, "*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.*" John 6:47-51 But they didn't believe His Word, and so He says, "Not only have I told you who I am, but My works have proven it." The scriptures had foretold of the ministry of the Messiah, and how He would open the eyes of the blind, heal the sick, and make whole the lame, and Jesus had done all of those things over and over again.

Remember when J.B. was preparing to be martyred and he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if He was in fact the One they were looking for or if they should look for another? and Jesus

said, *“Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.”* Luke 7:22 In other words, “John, remember what the scriptures say concerning the ministry of the Messiah and you’ll be reassured.” His *works* bore witness of Him; His *Word* bore witness of Him.

Vs 27-28

This vs should be underlined, highlighted, circled, or something, because this is the promise of the Good Shepherd to His sheep. # 1 Jesus says, I give them eternal life. Now we obviously don’t have time to break this down in any super in depth manner, but every word in that statement is important. Notice who gives eternal life, it’s Jesus; He says to these skeptics “I” give it to them.

Jesus said, *“Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”* John 6:27 and Again the bible says, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Rom 6:23 Jesus, and Jesus alone is the giver of eternal life, He’s the way, the truth, and the (what) life. 2<sup>ndly</sup> we notice He “gives” it to them, there’s nothing we can do to earn it or somehow merit it, it’s a gift, now if you work for it, it’s no longer a gift, it’s a fair wage. But there’s nothing we can do to deserve it, so Jesus just *gives* it to us. Gives what to us? That’s the next 2 words we’ve noticed already that He gives us life, before Jesus came into our hearts and lives, according to the bible we were dead. Dead in sin and trespasses, physically alive, but spiritually dead, but here we’re noticing that the life He gives us *isn’t* for a week, or 3years, or 56 years, it’s eternal.

John said, *“And this is the promise that He has promised us -- eternal life.”* 1 John 2:25 Which is just another testimony of His deity, because how can one who’s not eternal offer me something that is? I can’t give what I don’t have, but Jesus is eternal in nature, therefore He can give life that’s like His, I can only give my kids life that’s like mine (meaning temporary). But Jesus offers life that lasts forever, because His life is eternal, so not only does He give His life *for* his sheep, He gives His life *to* His sheep. Again His sheep being those who will follow Him, the whole thrust here is that to follow Jesus Christ is to have eternal life.

You follow Jesus Christ you’re eternally secure; I have no questions regarding the eternal security of the person who follows the Lord. As He says here, #2 “They shall *never* perish.” We might consider this “Divine Life Assurance” not “Insurance” but “Assurance.” To follow Jesus Christ is to have an assurance that you’ll never perish, Jesus said, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* John 3:16

3<sup>rdly</sup> “Neither shall anyone snatch them from My hand.” Remember David’s words? *“Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”* Ps 23:4 Jesus’ promise as the Good Shepherd is to defend His flock from external threats and predators, nothing’s going to snatch you out of His

hand. Paul said it like this, “*For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” Rom 8:38-39 The Good Shepherd takes good care of His sheep.

#### Vs29-30

It doesn't get much plainer than that does it? “My Father is greater than all,” so are you saying Jesus that the Father is greater than you? No, “I and My Father are one.” He's saying that even as the Father is greater than all, so is He, and as goes the Father's ability to direct, correct, and protect the sheep, so goes *His* ability to direct, correct, and protect the sheep. He's not saying that He and the Father are the same person, but of the same essence, same ability, and same will, they are unified.

#### Vs31-33

You see, they knew exactly what He was saying, now He wasn't “making Himself” God, He *is* God. But they can't deny His *works*, so they're going to execute Him for His *words*. They're saying that He's blasphemed in His claim, and according to Lev 24:16 blasphemy was punishable by death.

#### Vs34-39

So as to where we were seeing Jesus in His role of keeping the sheep, now we're seeing Him in the role of calling out to the sinners, to see Him for who He is that they might be saved as well. You see this is where divine election gets tricky, because why would Jesus invite them to believe in Him, if there was never the propensity there to do so? That's like a sick twisted joke, so though they're not responding to His voice, or receiving His works, that was their choice, the invitation goes out to all, but it's up to you to respond, and to receive.

He refers them here to Ps 82 in reference to the fact that God had given the title to the judges of the land of “gods.” In that they were standing in the place of God, making judgments over the people on God's behalf, they would receive God's Word and administer it to the people on His behalf. and Jesus is saying here look, the scriptures are inerrant, and yet if the Father would give the title to mere men of “gods” when they received and administered His word to the people (and when you read Ps 82 God is rebuking the judges, because they judged unjustly) and He warns them not to let the title go to their heads, because though He called them gods, they'd die like men.

But Jesus is saying, “If God will give this title to unjust men, then why do you have a problem with me calling Myself the Son of God in light of *My* words and *My* works which are completely just and godly in and of themselves?” You see, “I've spoken only truth, done only

good works, yet you want to stone Me (the sanctified and sent One) because I tell you I'm the Son of God. and Yet you have no problem with these unjust judges receiving the title of gods themselves. Now if I don't do the works of God, then don't believe, but if I do, then at least allow them to serve as a tool whereby you can begin to see who I am."

You see even in the midst of their hostility He's calling them to repent, to examine the evidence, the lame walking, the dead being raised, the eyes of the blind being opened, if those aren't godly works, then don't believe, but if they are, how can I being doing godly things apart from the Father at work in Me? He's reasoning with them, trying to show them the absurdity of their rationale, and the certainty of His own, how they can trust Him, believe in Him and be saved. But they wouldn't buy it, they sought to seize Him, but it wasn't yet His hour to give His life for the sin of the world, and so He escaped out of their hands.

Vs40-42

What a great testimony concerning J.B. even after he was dead his influence was leading people to Christ. He was a man of such integrity, such transparent honesty, that even though he didn't do any radical miracles to verify who he was or to back up his claims people still believed him. and Perhaps you're no miracle worker either, God hasn't worked signs and wonders through your life, that's ok.

The Holy Spirit was upon J.B. in a radical way and no sign or wonder was done through his life either, and Jesus said he was the greatest prophet who ever lived, why? Because he kept the priorities of his ministry clear, he pointed to Jesus, talked about Jesus and exalted Jesus, no wonder he was the greatest prophet who ever lived. These people said, the things John spoke were true, and they believed. May it be said of you that things you say of Jesus are true, that the things I say of Jesus are right, that many might believe in Him. Finding themselves safe and secure in His hands. (Just like you, and Just like me)

John's witness of Jesus Christ "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." Believe me the things he spoke about Him were true, and if you'll believe in Him, you can be forgiven of your sins as well. and Be brought in to the safe and secure hands of Jesus in an otherwise uncertain world. If Jesus is calling out to you today, consider the evidence, weigh it out and make a wise decision, whoever believes in Jesus will never perish, but have everlasting life. He won't force your submission, your surrender, it's up to you to believe, the things John spoke about this Man were true, and I'm just telling you I believe, and I'm encouraging you to do likewise.