

The True Son

(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #40)

John 10:31-42

"I'm trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [Jesus]: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say.

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would be either a lunatic - on the level of a man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. "Either this man was, and is, the Son of God - as he said he was; or else a mad-man or something worse." (Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis)

THE ULTIMATE QUESTION: Human or Divine? (10:31-33)

A. In John 10:30, Jesus made an amazing statement: *"I and the Father are one"*

1. It deeply offended the sensibilities of his Jewish listeners
2. They are so furious they pick up rocks to throw at him

B. Jesus asks, *"For which good work/miracle I've done are you stoning me?"*

1. Crowd: *"We're not stoning you for anything you've done but for what you've said."*
 - a. Jesus knows. But Jesus wants to again connect "Word" and "Deed"
"Let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18)
 - b. Jesus is confident that the Works the Father enables him to do are the single greatest evidence that the Words he says are true
2. Crowd names their objection: *"You, a human being, are making yourself God."*

THE ULTIMATE EVIDENCE: The Scripture (10:34-36)

A. Jesus quotes Psalm 82:6 - *"'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High'"*

1. This Psalm deals with human judges in Israel who settle disputes and who, metaphorically, hold a divinely conferred power over life and death
2. The Psalmist suggests these judges are agents of God: *"'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.'"*
3. Jesus argues: "If "ordinary men" can hear God, do his work and be called "gods," how can you accuse me - sent from God - of blasphemy?"
 - a. Jesus claims deity: *"I existed before I came to earth; I came from God"*
"He is the image of the invisible God. He is the creator of all things and by him all things hold together" (Paul, Colossians 1:15)
 - b. Jesus: if God/Scripture doesn't confirm what I say/do then don't believe in me; but if he/it does - and he/it does - then believe in me

B. 10:35 - *"The Scripture cannot be broken"*

1. Jesus doesn't want Himself or His ministry viewed apart from Scripture
2. Jesus uses Scripture to prove his identity as the true Son of God

THE ULTIMATE UNITY: Locked-in (10:37-39)

A. 10:38 - *"Know and understand that the Father is in me and I in the Father"*

1. The Greek *"en"* (English *"in"*) implies a deeply committed relationship
 - a. The Father's greatest project is Jesus and his mission; the Father is *"locked into"* his Son and his work
 - b. The Son's greatest project is his Father and his Father's will; the Son is *"locked into"* the Father like no one else
2. This is an incredible, maddening claim!

B. 10:38 - *"Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grip"*

1. We can't be snatched from the grip of Jesus or His Father (10:28-29); but we can/are snatched from the grip of the enemy
2. The resistance Jesus experiences here is the resistance to the Good News

THE ULTIMATE DECISION: Many Came to Him (10:40-42)

A. John 10:41 - *"And many people came to him..."*

1. The verdict is in! Jesus' (voice) attracts sheep (10:16, 27)
2. Might John be referring to his own written work when he says *"John did not do any signs, but everything John said about this man was true"*

"He who saw this has testified so that you might believe. His testimony is true and he knows that he tells the truth" (John 19:35)

"Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples which are not recorded in this book. These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)

"This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true" (John 21:24)

3. What if *"everything he (John) said/writes, is the Truth of and from Jesus?"*

B. 10:40 - *"And many people believed into Jesus there."* Jesus rests his case

1. Few claim Jesus was a mad man; most consider his words true
2. That leaves one response: We're to worship him and obey him as Lord