



2022-6-5 The Most Important Question In History

John 10:22-42

One Couldn't Help But Ask

- So, what is the most important question in history and why is it so?
- The Jewish leaders seem confused about who Jesus says He is. In V-24 they say, ...“How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answers them in V-25, ...“I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.

Several questions come to mind: Why can't they understand what He has already told them several times? Or, can they?

Previously in John 10:5,8,10 & 12-13 Jesus had likened the leaders to untrue shepherds, thieves & robbers. Now he has reduced their stature to less than sheep of His flock. Which are they? Are they both? How can that be?

- The Leaders pick up stones and are ready to kill Him. He reminds them of the works He did on His Father's behalf, healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, feeding the hungry, etc. and asks which one they will stone Him for. They counter with stoning for claiming to be God. He responds with words from Psalm 82 where judges are called gods because they worked in God's name although sometimes unjustly. They were familiar with this scripture, and He is questioning them as one rabbi to another.

Why then would they still have a problem with Jesus when He has only helped people, done miracles only possible through or by God and justified His actions with scripture?

- Do we have any similar problems today? Perhaps.

- The Jewish people have been waiting for Massiah for about 2100 yrs since the Abrahamic Covenant. They have been selecting Shepherds from the brightest of the sheep who study the scriptures to the point of memorizing them.
- The Massiah arrives and not only do they not recognize Him, but they also reject & kill Him!
- We established a covenant in this place in 1607 with 13 colonies and began selecting shepherds from the brightest of the flock always hoping that the next one would shepherd us on to freedom, including worship & peace. We had a restart in 1776 with the "righteous" leader and since then we have had 46 of them. Currently only about 33% agree with what he is doing.
- So, after 593/246 years depending on your choice of start date, less than 50% of us believe in the Good Shepherd sent by God, and no shepherd selected by the sheep seems able maintain a straight course.

Is this a reasonable comparison? Is there a common problem?

The Take Aways

- The Jewish leaders had developed an image of the Massiah that was to their liking. He would honor them for their intelligence, credentials and strict upholding of His laws as they interpreted them, physically defeat their enemies and make them the supreme rulers of His kingdom. Jesus destroyed their self-centered dream by offering His gift of salvation to everyone. He then told the Jewish leaders that they needed to leave their sinful life behind them, follow His life of service to others and be satisfied that their reward would be joy in this life for the promise of everlasting joy in the eternal life to come.
- Like many of us, they could not accept their perceived price of the unconditional love of Jesus:
 - Become least among others
 - Serve others who are lost and broken
 - Forgive their enemies and bring them to the Good Shepherd be washed clean
 It would be easy for us to place our own interests above the life of service God would have us go without prayer, vigilance & humility.
- It's important for the sheep to know the shepherd but it'd more important that the shepherd know his sheep. Reading and studying the bible, God's inspired word is certainly a good place start. As the Word becomes more familiar and as we relate its wisdom to our life it becomes easier to recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd. We find that we recognize his voice and His word even when life's storms seek to lead us astray until we are lost.

An invitation to join us

This study guide is provided in the hope that others will be moved to consider the sermon, let their mind wander to questions it might raise and thoughts they wish to remember and apply to their personal life. If anyone reading the guide cares to ask a question or share their thoughts regarding the subject, please e-mail the authors at mensbreakfast@therivercolorado.org . If you would like to participate in the building of the study guide, please let us know and we'll make provisions to have you join us via phone and/or Zoom