



Sermon Study Guide

The Jesus You Need: The Son of God
John 10:22-42
Sunday, March 24, 13

Introduction

- According to Ronald Dworkin in his book, *Religion Without God*, a “religious atheist” is someone who does not believe in God but takes it by faith that people should live moral lives.
- Jesus did not confront religious atheists. He did, however, make it clear that you cannot honor God without honoring the Son of God (see John 5:23; 8:19; 14:6-7).
- On any Sunday morning the church will have different kinds of people: 1) those without faith, and they know it; 2) those who think they are Christians but are not; and 3) those whose faith is weaker than it should be. Jesus’ message is helpful for each individual.

The Promises of Christ [READ John 10:22-30]

- Jesus returned to the temple to celebrate the Feast of Dedication or Hanukkah. The crowds tried to get him to confess he is the Christ—and they would have persecuted him for making such an obvious declaration of his identity. Jesus made it clear the problem is not in his presentation but in their hearts (see especially vv. 25-26).
- After making it clear that those in the crowds are lost, Jesus goes on to explain the blessings of being in Christ’s flock. These are the promises of Christ to all who believe:
 - *First, Christ promises you’ll hear his voice (v. 27).* How do we hear the voice of Jesus today? What helps you listen to God’s voice in Bible study? How does a season of *not* listening to God affect your Christian walk? Be specific.
 - *Second, Christ promises to know you (v. 27).* This is an intimate term. Remember, James said that Abraham was God’s friend (James 2:23). What practical difference does it make that Christ knows his sheep? Why do believers often *feel* unknown? What should you do if, for a long season, you are struggling to feel known by God?
 - *Third, Christ promises you’ll follow him (v. 27).* How should a Christian’s life look different from the life of a non-Christian? How should a church of people following Christ look different from a worldly gathering?
 - *Fourth, Christ promises to give you life (v. 28).* Why is it important to remember that all of these promises are interconnected? Before we receive life from Jesus, we are spiritually dead. What does it take for someone to realize that he or she is spiritually dead?
 - *Fifth, Christ promises to protect your life (v. 28-29).* These verses teach what Christians have called the doctrine of eternal security or the perseverance of

the saints. How can this teaching be abused? Why is this teaching so important?

- These promises should lead us to do at least two things: first, praise our promise-keeping God and, second, rest in our promise-keeping God. Do you praise God every day? If not, why not? What does it look like for you to “rest” in God and in his promises?

The Pursuit of Christ [READ John 10:31-39]

- The crowd decided that Jesus was a dangerous heretic. What did he say that led them to pick up stones to stone him? How did Jesus respond to their threat?
- Jesus pursued his enemies in three ways:
 - *First, he challenged their assumptions (vv. 34-36).* Read Psalm 82. Jesus cited this Psalm to argue that the Jews were wrong to assume he could not be the Son of God. How does Psalm 82 fit into Jesus’ argument? What are some assumptions people make about Jesus today? How can we challenge the assumptions of unbelievers?
 - *Second, he pointed to his life (v. 37-38).* Jesus saw his works or miracles as a sign. What were they signs of? Why do you think the Jews did not see Jesus’ works for what they were? What role should these signs play in our faith today? What is the most important work that Jesus performed and why?
 - *Third, he stood his ground (v. 38).* What theological claim did Jesus repeatedly make in this encounter? Again, why did it draw such hostility from the crowd? What are some theological truths that Christians, today, must not veer from? In other words, how are we called to hold our ground?

Conclusion [READ John 10:40-42]

- Jesus did not see a convert in the temple in Jerusalem. But on the banks of the Jordan, many came to believe.
- Why does John draw our attention to Jesus’ interaction with the people at the Jordan River? Why did they believe while the people in the temple rejected Jesus?
- Can a person do anything to become part of the flock of Jesus? How does this passage lead you to worship Jesus better?