

*He Loved Me...*

*He Loves Me Lots*

*The Gospel of John*

Text

John 10:22-42

Topic

Jesus asks for which of the many works He had shown them did the Jews want to kill Him

Title

***"The Greatest Shown on Earth "***

---

Hobbits might be the unlikeliest of all the unlikely heroes.

In an epic tale featuring extraordinary men, elves, dwarves, and wizards, the Hobbits carry the day.

**Israel's greatest king was an unlikely hero.**

- When Samuel came to anoint the next king of Israel, his family never for an instant considered it could be David.
- When David offered to face-off against the daunting, taunting Philistine giant, his brothers chided him.
- Saul suggested David wear his armor, but the fit made David look ridiculous.

David felled Goliath of Gath. There is no arguing the unlikely hero went on to be Israel's greatest king.

**David's ancestor and descendant, Jesus, was as unlikely a hero as they come.**

Nothing in His life recommended Him. In one of the few descriptions we have of Him, Isaiah said, "When we see Him, *There is* no beauty that we should desire Him" (53:2). He did nothing noteworthy for thirty years except learn obedience.

To a generation of Jews with high expectations of a conquering Messiah, Jesus would describe Himself as "The Good Shepherd." The Jews were looking for someone more militant.

I'll organize my comments around two points: **#1 Your Shepherd Came To Be A King**, and **#2 Your King Is Coming To Be A Shepherd**.

### **#1 - Your Shepherd Came To Be A King (v1-31)**

Only Arthur could pull Excalibur from the stone. It was all the proof needed that he was the king. Only a shepherd could be Israel's king.

God made it clear in the Scriptures:

- Psalm 80:1, "Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who are enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth!"
- Psalm 95:7, "For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand."
- Isaiah 40:11, "Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs, And carry them in His bosom."

The Messiah Who would rule forever would be a Shepherd-King.

Micah 4:12-13, looking forward to the reign of the Messiah over Earth we call The Millennium, says, "I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together like sheep of the fold, Like a flock in the midst of their pasture; They shall make a loud noise because of *so many* people. The one who breaks open will come up before them; They will break out, Pass through the gate, And go out by it; Their king will pass before them, With the LORD at their head."

The Jews would hard pass on the Good Shepherd. They were looking for a Hammer.

Joh 10:22 Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.

Joh 10:23 And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch.

The Feast of Dedication... the Festival of Lights... Hanukkah. Different names for the same celebration. It is held annually by Jews for eight days to commemorate the cleansing and rededication of the Temple. It was not an original feast, but became a tradition.

Syrians led by Antiochus Epiphanes marched into Jerusalem in 167BC and defiled the Temple. Judas Maccabaeus was a Jewish priest. He led the successful, appropriately named, "Maccabean Revolt" against the Syrians from 167-160BC. He removed all of the statues depicting Greek gods and goddesses and otherwise purified the Temple.

- John's mention of Hanukkah gets the reader thinking about the Maccabees and Jewish independence.
- The mention of "Solomon," King David's son and successor, recalled the glory days of Israel.

**A king like Judas Maccabaeus, ruling a kingdom like Solomon's, was what the Jews expected.**

'Maccabaeus' is a title. In Aramaic, it means *hammer*, or *sledge hammer*. It was given to him either on account of his ferocity in battle, or because it was his weapon of choice.

You are occupied & oppressed by the mighty Roman Empire. Do you want 'Judas the Hammer,' or 'Jesus the Shepherd'?

Joh 10:24 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."

They "surrounded Him," like a gang of bullies. Perhaps they thought they could intimidate Jesus.

"Christ" is a title. It means *Anointed One*. The promised Messiah was the unique Anointed One.

Joh 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.

Joh 10:26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

Jesus didn't say, "I've given you ample evidence I am the Messiah. Too bad you can't believe Me because you are predestined to perish." They *chose* disbelief in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Their previous hero wielded a sledge hammer. In their disbelief, they could not imagine that a shepherd with only his rod and staff and sling could overthrow Rome. Joh 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

There are over 50 known *whistled* languages. *Kuş dili* is a Turkish language communicated through high-pitched whistles and melodies. It is used by Turkish farmers to communicate over large distances.

Shepherds have a language of calls that only their sheep will heed.

Jesus doesn't so much teach us a new language as He opens our ears to hear His voice in different ways. Mostly through His written word that the indwelling Holy Spirit brings to mind, but also through other believers, circumstances, suffering, etc. We learn the calls and promptings of our Shepherd.

Joh 10:28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

*The Bible Knowledge Commentary* says:

*This is one of the clearest statements in the Bible that one who believes in Jesus for salvation will never be lost. Believers sin and stumble, but Jesus as the perfect Shepherd loses none of His flock. Eternal life is a gift. If one has it, he has it eternally. "They shall never perish" is a strong affirmation in the Greek: they will indeed not ever perish. The security of the sheep is found in the ability of the Shepherd to defend and preserve His flock.*

One commentator said, "If you *could* lose your salvation, you *would*."

Joh 10:29 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.

F.B. Meyer writes,

*Note the safety of those who really belong to Christ. They are not only in His hand, but in the Father's, because the Father and He are one. Here is a double protection. They*

*may wander far, lose joy and comfort, fall on dark and stormy times, but He is responsible for them, will seek them out, and bring them home.*

Another strong statement about our security in Jesus. But then, as so many do, Meyer adds this caveat: "But if any should presume to live carelessly because of this divine grace, it is clear that such a one is not one of Christ's sheep."

- Abraham's nephew, Lot, "lived carelessly." We will nevertheless see him in Heaven.
- The apostle Paul allowed that there were carnal Christians.

We don't have a license to sin. But the minute we start backpedaling from our salvation being secure in Jesus on account of sin, our walk with God becomes works-oriented as we develop standards and strategies to maintain our status.

To those who live carelessly, the apostle Paul says, "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" (Romans 6:1-2).

Pastor Chuck Smith said, "There's a difference between *losing* your salvation and *leaving* your salvation. If you lose something, you don't know where to find it. You can't lose your salvation because you always know where to find it; you can only leave it."

We confuse living carnally with apostasy. An apostate is someone who abandons the faith. It is clear from the Bible that apostates are people who made *professions* of faith in Jesus Christ but never genuinely received Him as Savior. They were pretend believers. Dr. J. Vernon McGee writes, "*I believe in the eternal security of the believer and in the insecurity of the make-believer.*"

Joh 10:30 I and My Father are one."

Joh 10:31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.

The Father and Jesus are not the same person. To say they are is a heresy. They are equal. The Jews understood that Jesus was saying He was "equal" with God.

I'm starting to think there were vendors that had bags of throwing stones on their carts. Remember - they are in the Temple, *not* outside on dirt.

**W**e like to remind you that Jesus' greatest work is **you**:

- "He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).
- "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (First John 3:2).

In various places we are compared to pottery being made by the Master Potter... Letters and poems being written by Him to be read by all men... Living stones placed in a magnificent Temple of God... A bride being made more beautiful each day.

### **Why live carelessly?**

#### **#2 - Your King Is Coming To Be A Shepherd (v32-42)**

SPECTRE... The League of Shadows... Hydra... The Company... The Adjustment Bureau... KAOS... THRUSH... The Syndicate. Those are a few of the secret societies on film & television.

Skull & Bones... The Freemasons... The Knights Templar... The Illuminati... Bilderberg. Those are a few of the "real-world" secret societies.

There is a group of supernaturals in the Bible working in the background. They are secret only because we misidentify them.

- In Psalm 89:5-7 we read, "And so the heavens will praise your wonderful deed, O Yahweh, even your faithfulness, in **the assembly of the holy ones**. For who **in the sky** is equal to Yahweh? Who is like Yahweh among **the sons of God**, a God feared greatly in **the council of the holy ones**, and awesome above **all surrounding him?"**
- In Job 1:6 & 2:1, we are told, "**the sons of God** came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD."
- In Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, was punished by God with temporary insanity. That sentence was handed down by "the decree of the Most High" (4:24) **and** "the decree of **the watchers**" (4:17).

The assembly of the holy ones; those in the sky surrounding Him; the council of the holy ones; the sons of God; the watchers. These supernaturals are nowhere more

evident than in Psalm 82: "God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges **among the gods...** I said, 'You *are* **gods.**' "

Jesus will quote from Psalm 82 in verses thirty-four and thirty-five. We won't understand what He is saying if we misidentify these supernaturals.

We left Jesus surrounded by angry, stone wielding Jews.

Joh 10:32 Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?"

Jesus gave glory to God the Father. So can we. Oswald Chambers writes, "Our purpose should be to display the glory of God in human life, to live a life 'hidden with Christ in God' in our everyday human conditions."

Famous actors make appearances in films without appearing in the credits:

- Daniel Craig was an Imperial Stormtrooper in *The Force Awakens*.
- Glenn Close was a pirate in *Hook*.
- Matt Damon, *Interstellar*.
- Tom Cruise, *Tropic Thunder*.

### **Stay hidden in Jesus & enjoy being His uncredited servant.**

Get over the desire for recognition and honor in the church. Instead of being put-out when overlooked, rejoice.

Joh 10:33 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."

Joh 10:34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I SAID, "YOU ARE GODS" '?"

The Bible teaches that there is one God existing in three Persons. The Father is God, Jesus is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. Not three God's; One God, three Persons. There is no supernatural in the unseen realm equal to God.

The Bible frequently says that God is "above all **gods.**"<sup>1</sup> We hesitate to say it, because it sounds like blasphemy, but if God is "above all gods," *there are other gods.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Psalm 95:3, 96:4, 97:9, 135:5, First Chronicles 16:25.

We don't mean idols, made of wood and stone. *There are god's with a lower-case 'g.'* They are supernatural beings who inhabit the unseen realm.

A Jewish writer, Elon Gilad, says,

*The different scribes who wrote most of the biblical canon believed the incorporeal world was populated by a multitude of gods, but that the Hebrews should not worship any of these other deities, only YHWH. This is stated in the Second Commandment: "Thou shalt have no other **gods** before me (Exodus 20:3).*

Jesus quoted from Psalm 82. We don't have a lot of time, so I will give you a synopsis:

The context of the psalm is that YHWH gave a measure of authority over the nations on Earth to certain lesser gods.

In their oversight of the nations, they judged unjustly, showing partiality to the wicked. YHWH promised He will judge them. He says, "But you shall die like men, And fall like one of the princes." He promised to give their authority over the nations to Someone else.

- 99% of commentaries you read argue that the "gods" in Psalm 82 are human judges on Earth. If true (it is not), how can their punishment be, "You shall die like men?" It makes zero sense to say men will die like men.
- Furthermore, they are being compared to men, so they must be something other than men.
- If these gods *are* mere men, then Jesus is saying something like, "The Bible calls men gods, so it's no biggie if I call Myself God." In other words, Jesus would be arguing that He was *not* God.

Psalm 82 announces that YHWH will strip the lesser gods of their authority over nations, and give it to someone else. The last verse of Psalm 82 brings it home: "Arise, **O God**, judge the earth; For You shall inherit all nations" (v8).

Who is this Person, "God" with the upper-case 'G,' who will "judge the earth" and "inherit all nations?" *Jesus - that's who He is.*

He isn't one of the lesser, lower-case 'g,' gods. Unlike them, He is God's equal. Unlike them, He is God.



Joh 10:35 If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

Joh 10:36 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'?

When the Lord said, "the Scripture cannot be broken," it's like our saying, "God said it; I believe it; that settles it." In this case, in Psalm 82, YHWH said He would take authority over the nations from lesser, lower-case 'g,' gods, and give it to Someone equal to Him. He would give it to the unique, divine "Son of God."

How will He rule? In the Revelation we read, "HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON..." (2:27). It is a quote from Psalm 2. The "rod" is the tool of a shepherd.

### **Your King is coming to shepherd.**

Joh 10:37 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me;

Joh 10:38 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."

The Jews tried as hard as they might, but they could never find a way to attribute Jesus' works to anyone but the Father. They were left with two options: Believe Jesus, or stop Him from doing works by murdering Him.

Joh 10:39 Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand.

Religion chooses murder every time. Religion cannot transform the wicked, depraved heart.

We would attribute Jesus' escape to God's providence. Dr. Michael Svigel writes, "God's mysterious providence over history may be less *noticeable*, but should be no less *notable*, than His miraculous deeds in history."

Joh 10:40 And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed.

Joh 10:41 Then many came to Him and said, "John performed no sign, but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true."

Joh 10:42 And many believed in Him there.

Is it OK to say that Jesus 'circled back?' He returned to where His public ministry had begun. His public ministry was about over. The Cross was coming fast.

**W**here did *you* believe Jesus? Circle back. How's it going since then?  
A.W. Tozer, commenting on examining ourselves, suggests three possibilities: Rut, Rot, or Revival.

**Choose one & act accordingly.**