

Series: Life to the Full; Sermon: **The Son of God**

Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: **May 6, 2018**

Bible text explored: John 10:22–42

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one.”

³¹The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. ³²Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?” ³³The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.” ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? ³⁵If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— ³⁶do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? ³⁷If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; ³⁸but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.” ³⁹Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

⁴⁰He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. ⁴¹And many came to him. And they said, “John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.” ⁴²And many believed in him there. [ESV]

Review and application:

The Festival of Dedication commemorated the rededication of the liberated temple after it had been defiled by the Greek soldiers of Antiochus IV in the winter of 175-'74 BC.

1. This winter festival (v. 22) is commonly known by the Hebrew word for “dedication.” Can you guess what that word is?

During the festival, the priests were to reflect on their commitment to service, using Ezekiel 34 as their principle text.

What made this a pivotal moment for Jesus claim (in *John 10:11*) to be the Good Shepherd? (See *Ezek. 34:12-13, 23-24.*)

2. Do you think the exasperated questions of those surrounding Jesus (v. 24) was based on genuine puzzlement or on hostility?

What political and religious-establishment factors were behind Jesus’ avoiding direct use of the *Messiah* term?

What alternative terms, however, had he used that clearly called for the same conclusion? (See *Dan.7:13-14; John 8:27-28; 10:11.*)

3. Jesus said the reason the religious leaders didn’t believe his claims (vv. 25-26) was *not* inadequate information. What reason did he offer?

4. What security (vv. 27-28) does the Good Shepherd provide for every follower of his?
What (vv.29-30) reinforces the assurance he has given?
What do we learn from Jesus' declaration about . . .
 - . . . how the Father and the Son are distinct persons?
 - . . . how, at the same time, they are a unity of essence?
5. From the gathering's response (vv. 31-33), they clearly understood the thrust of Jesus' words. What presumptions made them incapable of belief?
6. How (vv. 34-38) did Jesus' rebuttal, alluding to the words of *Psalm 82:6*, support that the God-like actions he performed should at least have convinced them about who had sent him into the world?
7. What does the contrasting "quiet revival" across the Jordan (vv. 39-42) teach us about . . .
 - . . . the danger of being inoculated to real faith by being in a religious center?
 - . . . the value of consistent witness by a non-celebrity (à la John the Baptist)?
 - . . . our ability to make anyone believe?
 - . . . final responsibility for the faith of our children?