



Sermon: Sunday, May 11, 2025

“If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly”

SCRIPTURE: John 10:22-30 ²²At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.”

Introduction: Doubts About Jesus and the Work of God

Today is the 4th Sunday of Easter, and it’s also Mother’s Day. So first, let’s greet one another by saying, **“Happy Mother’s Day!”**

In today’s Bible reading, we see people asking a big question: **“Who is Jesus, really?”** That’s an important question, and it’s one we all must answer. What do you believe about Jesus?

The Bible’s answer is clear: **Jesus is the Son of God and the promised Savior.** But honestly, that’s not always an easy thing to understand or believe right away. So let me ask—what makes you believe that Jesus really is the Christ, the one sent by God?

Back in Jesus’ day, the Jewish people were asking this same question (v. 24). They believed the Messiah would come one day to save the world, just as the Old Testament had promised.

Many of them were frustrated because no matter how hard they tried, they didn’t see the justice or peace they longed for. So when people began whispering that maybe Jesus was the Christ, they came to him and demanded, **“Just tell us plainly—are you the Messiah or not?”**

Jesus replied, **“I’ve already told you, and you still don’t believe. The works I do in my Father’s name—they are the proof” (v. 25).** In the Gospel of John, Jesus talks a lot about these **“works.”** For example, in John 5:36, Jesus says, **“The works the Father gave me to finish—those works I’m doing—testify that the Father has sent me.”** And in John 10:38, he says, **“Even if you don’t believe me, believe the works. Then you’ll know that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father.”**

This shows us that Jesus knew who he was. Yes, he struggled with things—like when he was tempted in the wilderness or facing death on the cross—but he didn’t deny who he was. He accepted the truth that others saw in him: that he was the Son of God, the Christ.

Instead of trying to prove himself with arguments or titles, Jesus pointed people to the work that God was doing through him. He basically said, **“Even if you’re not sure about me, look at the things happening through me—the things God is doing. That’s where the truth is.”** And the main work of God that Jesus pointed to was salvation—God’s plan to rescue us and give us eternal life.

Body: The Jewish Expectation and Jesus’ Message

So the real question is this: Is Jesus truly the Messiah? That depends on whether or not people experience



salvation through him. Those who are saved by Jesus naturally come to believe in him and confess, “Yes, Jesus is the Christ.” But those who haven’t had that experience often walk away.

The sad truth is that many of the religious Jews in Jesus’ time didn’t believe he was the Messiah. They even accused him of blasphemy. Why? Because they hadn’t experienced salvation through him.

But it’s surprising, isn’t it? The Jews were the very people who had been waiting for the Messiah for generations. So why didn’t they recognize him? The problem wasn’t with Jesus—it was with their expectations. They had a very specific idea of what the Messiah would look like. They were waiting for a political leader, someone who would overthrow Rome and make Israel powerful again. And Jesus didn’t fit that image at all. Many people tried to make Jesus into that kind of king. But Jesus refused. His mission wasn’t about power or popularity. He came to bring people back to God.

Jesus taught people to love—not just their friends, but even their enemies. He told people to turn away from selfish living and focus on God. He showed that God isn’t a harsh judge waiting to punish us, but a loving Father who cares deeply for us. In fact, Jesus called God “**Abba**”—an intimate word like “**Dad.**” That’s how close he was to God.

He taught his followers not to worry about things like food, clothes, or money, but to seek God’s kingdom and his righteousness above all else. With this faith, Jesus was able to face the cross, trusting completely in God’s love.

But the Jews couldn’t accept that. To them, the Messiah had to be a victor, a champion who would win by force. And Jesus didn’t meet those expectations.

Even today, many people still have that same mistaken idea. They think being saved means having a comfortable, successful life. Of course, for those who are suffering or going through hardship, we do pray for miracles and relief. Everyone deserves help in times of trouble.

But the problem is, many people keep wanting more even when they already have enough. Others believe that as long as they live sincerely and work hard, they don’t need Jesus at all. But I don’t want to live like that. That kind of life is like the people in Jesus’ time who were so stuck in their own view of the Messiah that they rejected the real one.

Yes, the Jews rejected Jesus because of their wrong expectations. But in today’s Scripture, Jesus gives a deeper reason. He says, “**You don’t believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me**” (vv. 26–27).

Now, when Jesus says, “**my sheep,**” it might sound like he’s playing favorites. But that’s not the point. Special experiences only come from special relationships. Thinking about love, you can’t measure it like money or math. It’s something only people in love really understand.

In the same way, recognizing Jesus, experiencing him, and confessing him as the Savior—that only happens in a close, trusting relationship with him. That’s what Jesus means when he says, “**my sheep.**”

And in verse 28, Jesus promises that his sheep—his followers—will receive eternal life. That’s not just a future hope; it starts now. When we follow Jesus, we begin to live in that eternal, abundant life right here and now. Knowing him is already a taste of salvation.

Conclusion: May You Experience Life and Love in Christ

Dear brothers and sisters, the eternal life that Jesus’ disciples experienced in the Gospels wasn’t just a theory or a religious claim. It was real. It was the power of life and the fullness of God’s love.



The Jews longed for the Messiah, but they missed out on that life and love because they didn't accept Jesus. But his disciples experienced it daily. My prayer is that you too would experience that life. May you feel the strength of God's power and the warmth of his love every day. **Amen.**

