

Sunday, May 4, 2022

4 Easter, Year C

JOHN 10:22–30

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ³and 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. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.

³⁰The Father and I are one."

OPEN

- What is the big annual feast day for your family? Who usually comes? What is served? What is the big "pass time"?
- What family traditions are you going to preserve for your kids?

DIG

- Given the meaning of Hanukkah (when the Jews celebrate their deliverance during the Maccabean revolt), what feelings surface among the crowds? How would the Roman authorities prepare for this feast? Given the tensions, what might be the real intent of the Pharisees' questions in verse 24?
- How does Jesus push things even further? Why? How does he diagnose their problem?
- How do the leaders interpret Jesus' claim that he is One with God? How does Jesus sidetrack them (v 34)? What evidence does he offer?

REFLECT

- What has convinced you that Jesus is the Messiah? What old ways of looking at Jesus must you overcome by faith?
- What difference does it make that Jesus is God and not just a man? Would the promise of verse 28 mean much otherwise?