

Woodland Baptist Church
 August 3, 2014 - Morning Worship
 John 10:31-42, Scripture Cannot be Broken

1) INTRODUCTION

2) READ JOHN 10

a) The harsh reality is that there are two types of shepherds: true and false.

i) There are shepherds that are **truly called by God**, that truly love the sheep, that truly love you, want to protect you and see you thrive spiritually. They will not always make you feel good, they will teach the truth of the gospel, and the truth shall set you free.

ii) There are **shepherds that are false** - they are not truly called by God; they may seem to love you, and want to protect you...but inwardly, they are "ravenous wolves." They are not about promoting Christ...they are about promoting themselves to the detriment of the church and the sheep.

(1) **Matthew 7:15** - 15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

(2) **Acts 20:28-30** - Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

b) Remember as Christ says these words, the Jewish leadership is standing nearby hearing every word and knowing that Christ is talking about them.

3) **Verses 1-2** - The **TRUE** Shepherd uses the **DOOR** to the sheepfold...is allowed access and is recognized...the Door to spiritual abundance is **CHRIST**.....The Good Shepherd sacrifices **HIMSELF** for the **SHEEP**...The Hired Hand sacrifices the

SHEEP for HIMSELF....There is only one true SHEPHERD for one true FLOCK
The shepherd gives his LIFE by the will of the FATHER...The TRUTH always
causes DIVISION....Christ's TEACHING frustrated UNBELIEVERS....Christ's
SHEEP are UN-SNATCHABLE

4) **Verses 31-33 Blindness to spiritual TRUTH creates a CALLOUSED heart**

a) **31 Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, 32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" 33 "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."**

i) Let's be sure we understand what is going on - the Jewish leadership is ready to kill Jesus by stoning because Jesus continues to claim that he is divine. Do we understand that? That's a huge claim and the primary reason all of us are gathered here this morning...we believe that the claims Jesus made are true..."I and the Father are one." Well, they did not, they did not believe Jesus was being truthful and in fact believed him to be committing blasphemy. What is blasphemy? Have you heard that word before?

(1) Blasphemy - a heavy insult and in this case, the heavy insult was toward God- **Leviticus 24:16 - 16 Whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.**

ii) Jesus had done this multiple times implicitly - "I am the bread of life...Before Abraham was, I am."

b) But as the Jews picked up stones to hurl at Jesus, Christ stops them with a question, "For which of these good works do you stone me?" Calling back to their minds the works that Christ had indeed done since his ministry began:

i) Water to wine, cleansing the temple, healing of the official's son, healing of the invalid by the pool, feeding of the 5,000 and most recently, healing the man born blind - of course these are the works in John - not including the works in the synoptics. These are good things, that honored God and ministered positively to mankind - not evil works...good works.

c) **33 "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.**

5) **Verses 34-36** If God can call HUMANS gods, he can call JESUS the Son of God

- i) As always, Jesus manages to pull on over on them and silence them...
- b) **34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'? 35 If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— 36 do 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'?"**
 - i) Here Jesus again stops them in their tracks...have you not forgotten that written in your law, meaning the Old Testament Scriptures, given to them by God through Moses - *I said you are gods?* Our interest should be the same as the Jews - what exactly is Christ talking about? Christ pulls what we call in contemporary language a "proof text." It's a scripture you call upon to try to make a point with someone when you believe they are wrong.
 - c) **Psalm 82:1-8 - God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: 2 "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah 3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. 4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." 5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. 6 I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; 7 nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince." 8 Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!**
 - i) As Jesus uses the text, the general line of his argument is clear. This Scripture proves that the word 'god' is legitimately used to refer to others than God himself. If there are others whom God (the author of Scripture) can address as 'god' and 'sons of the Most High' (i.e. sons of God), on what biblical basis should anyone object when Jesus says, I am God's Son?¹
 - ii) The stated context—mob frenzy heated to the threshold of explosive violence—does not provide him with the leisure for cool theological dialogue. So he administers a short, sharp shock, a scriptural reason why they should not take umbrage just because he calls himself the Son of God. That reason does not establish the nature of his unique sonship: that is presupposed, rather, by his self-reference as the one whom the Father set apart ... and sent into the world.

¹ Carson, Pillar NT, logos

But the ad hominem rebuke stalls the crowd long enough for him to appeal once more to the testimony of his words and works (vv. 37–38).²

- (1) Don't get bent out of shape because I use a word that makes you uncomfortable - God used it to describe humans in the past; you are missing the deeper issues here.

d) 35 If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— 36 do 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'?

- i) What does Christ mean when he says the Scripture cannot be broken?

(1) **Matthew 5:17-18** - 17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

(2) **1 Peter 1:24-25** - "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever."

6) Verses 37-39 The works are EVIDENCE of the Father's PRESENCE in Christ

a) 37 If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; 38 but 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." 39 Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

- i) The evidence that the Father is in Christ is the work that he does; what type of fruit does he bear - is it good fruit or bad fruit? At the very beginning of his ministry Christ spoke about false prophets - **Matthew 7:15-20** - 15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

² Constable

- (1) It would seem very obvious that the ministry that Christ was doing was producing good fruit - people were being healed, Christ had a ministry of compassion, people were hearing the truth of the Word for the first time instead of cold traditionalism....Jesus pleads with 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."**
- b) **They sought to arrest him, but Jesus escaped from their hands** - as though Jesus is insulated from their attacks by the Father - which is exactly the case; Christ is on the Father's timeline and no man can change manipulate his timeline, although we make attempts every day.
- 7) **Verses 40-42 John's WITNESS of Christ HELPED many believe**
- a) **40 He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. 41 And many came to him. And they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." 42 And many believed in him there.**
- i) These verses stand in stark contrast to the previous verses - John performed no sign, conducted no works other than baptizing those that came in repentance. John's consistent testimony was favorably responded to and had stood the test of time and Jesus had proved it all to be true.
- ii) So...those that listen...the sheep...heard the voice of John the Baptist, saw it come to pass in Christ and therefore many believed in him there.
- 8) CLOSE