

Contagious But Controversial Jesus

Showdown with Jesus in the Gospel of John

You Need Jesus More than You Think

Experiencing the Good Shepherd

John 10:1-42

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, Aug. 21, 2011

"We live in a golden age for Christian publishing. Never have so many words been written nor so many pages published on the Lord Jesus Christ. Every city in North America seems to have a Christian bookstore, and their shelves are filled with interesting, helpful, and profound books on the Christian life. The downside of all of this is I think many people have shied away from Scripture itself." *Finding the Will of God: A Pagan Notion?* Bruce K. Waltke, p.63

I. Jesus Wasn't Afraid of Offending People v. 1-6, 24-29

"The glory of Jesus Christ is that He is always out of sync with the world and therefore always relevant for the world. If He fit nicely, He would be of little use... Better to let Him be what He is, because it is often the offensive side of Jesus that we need most. Especially offensive to the modern, western sentiment is the tough, blunt, fierce form of Jesus' love. People with thin skin would often have felt hurt by Jesus' piercing tongue." *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*, John Piper, p. 99-100

John 10:24

You can be in a position of religious authority and plugged into religious tradition and still not be one of Jesus' followers. **John 10:26-29**

"Do you believe?"

John 3:16

II. Jesus Wasn't Confused about What He'd Come to Do v. 11-18

When Jesus took on flesh and stepped down into this earth... He didn't come on a mission that could fail. What God plans... God executes and accomplishes.

A. "I have"

Jesus "has" sheep. And He has them before they even come to Him. Otherwise... he wouldn't say, "I must bring them also."

John 17:6

God had chosen these sheep for himself – "Yours they were" – and he gave them to the Son – "and you gave them to me."

John 6:37

God the Father had chosen them for himself, and he gives them to the Son.

Ephesians 1:4

(See also John 6:39, 44, 65; 17:9, 24; 18:9)

B. "I must bring them also"

He brings them by his word... through our preaching and teaching and singing and sharing of God's Word!

John 17:20

Jesus brings his sheep to himself then and now by his word. My preaching and your witness are that word.

C. "They will listen to my voice" John 10:27

If you never get up and follow Jesus, you were never one of his sheep. And by the same token – If you do follow him, you were chosen by the Father and given to His Son as a gift... long before you ever made a move towards Christ.

D. "Other sheep that are not of this fold"

John 10:16

Revelation 5:9-10

When the Great Shepherd laid down his life for the sheep, he purchased His sheep from every tribe and language and people and nation.

III. Jesus Leaves No Middle Ground for You to Stay Neutral – But Forces You to Make a Decision about Him v. 19-21, 31, 33-42

John 9:16, John 7:43, John 10:20, John 7:20 John 8:48, John 10:41-42

Bono: "No, it's not far-fetched to me. Look, the secular response to the Christ story always goes like this: He was a great prophet, obviously a very interesting guy, had a lot to say along the lines of other great prophets, be they Elijah, Muhammad, Buddha, or Confucius.

But actually Christ doesn't allow you that. He doesn't let you off that hook. Christ says, 'No. I'm not saying I'm a teacher, don't call me teacher. I'm not saying I'm a prophet. I'm saying, 'I'm the Messiah.' I'm saying: 'I am God incarnate.' And people say: No, no, please, just be a prophet. A prophet we can take. You're a bit eccentric. We've had John the Baptist eating locusts and wild honey, we can handle that. But don't mention the "M" word! Don't claim to be 'Messiah' because, you know, we're gonna have to crucify you.

And Jesus says, "No, no, I know you're expecting me to come back with an army and set you free from [the Roman oppression], but actually I am the Messiah." At this point, everyone starts staring at their shoes, and says: Oh, my God, He's gonna keep saying this.

So what you're left with is either Christ was who He said He was – the Messiah – or a complete nutcase. I mean, we're talking nutcase on the level of Charles Manson... The idea that the entire course of civilization for over half of the globe could have its fate changed and turned upside-down by a nutcase, for me that's far-fetched..." (Bono: In Conversation with Michka Assayas, by Michka Assayas, p. 206) quoted in **The Reason for God**, Timothy Keller, pgs 228-230