

Teaching Points

Christ's clear claim to be the Divine Messiah

Have you ever heard someone say, "Jesus never claimed to be divine"? In truth, Jesus proved Himself to be the Messiah, the Son of God, over and over. He taught publicly. He revealed Himself as the "I am" and He did His miracles in the open. Yet, His opponents surround Him and say, "How long do You keep us in doubt (in suspense)? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus' response is, "I told you, and you do not believe." He has told them with His words and His actions/works.

Discussion Question: What kind of works did Jesus do already in the Gospel of John?

Thoughts: Healing the man born blind (chapter 9), walking on water and feeding the 5,000 (chapter 6), the man healed by the pool (chapter 5), healing the nobleman's son (chapter 4), and turning water into wine (chapter 2). Except for Christ walking on the water, all of these are very "public" accounts of His divine power. People have seen it. It is undeniable. Each of these miracles are "signs"—that's a key word in John's Gospel. That means they are indicators of His true identity. They signal His divinity in clear terms.

The teaching of Christ along with His miracles form a clear and coherent picture of His deity. He feeds them bread and tells them He is the Bread of life. He claims to be the Light of the world and opens the eyes of a blind man. Look at the consistency throughout His ministry—and they still turn around and say to Him, "Tell us who you are." See how this theme emerges once again: Jesus speaks plainly and does miraculous works plainly, yet His opponents refuse to believe.

Discussion Question: What does that tell us about the nature of unbelief?

Thoughts: It is moral. It is not academic. It is not merely intellectual. It is driven by an anti-God spirit: "We will not have this Man to rule over us." See John 3:19 for the spirit that drives unbelief. It's not a lack of light (evidence), but a love of evil.

Christ preserves His sheep

Take some time to discuss the astounding promises in verses 27-29. Christ's sheep hear His voice and follow Him. Christ gives them eternal life. Christ's sheep shall never perish. No one is able to snatch Christ's sheep out of Christ's hand. Neither is anyone able to snatch Christ's sheep out of His Father's hand. See how the sheep are being held in Christ's hand and in the Father's hand. The unity of the Son and the Father is shown here and stated explicitly (v.30).

Discussion Question: Does this section teach that we are preserved or that we persevere?

Thoughts: Both! We persevere because He preserves. His sheep follow Him (v.27) which means His sheep believe Him and live for Him. He and the Father hold the sheep so as to lose none.

Prayer Focus

Praise God for holding His sheep safely in His hand. Let your confidence be in Christ's preserving work. Pray for strength to persevere as we dwell on that preserving work. Hear His words and follow Him. Thank God for the daily grace to hear and obey.