

JESUS IS GOD

HIS SHEEP KNOW THAT



I KNOW MY OWN AND MY OWN KNOW ME

(JOHN 10:14B ESV)

1. The battle lines were drawn once again as the Jews had stones in their hands ready to kill Jesus, 10:31.

- (John 10:31 ESV) The Jews picked up stones again to stone him.

A. People are willing to kill to get their own way.

- (James 4:1–2 MSG) Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. 2 You lust for what you don't have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn't yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it. You wouldn't think of just asking God for it, would you?

B. The Jews hated Jesus because they saw him as an obstacle to getting/keeping their own way.

i. They hated him because of his words.

- (John 10:19 ESV) There was again a division among the Jews because of these words.

ii. They hated him because darkness hates the light.

- (John 3:19-20 ESV) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

iii. They hated him because Jesus spoke the truth and exposed the reality of their relationship with God.

- (John 5:37–38 ESV) And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, 38 and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.

iv. They hated him because the righteousness he offered was in competition their righteousness.

- (Romans 10:2–3 ESV) For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

C. The Jews believed it was necessary for Jesus to die to advance their cause.

- (John 18:14 ESV) It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

2. So there they stood ... stones in hand ... when Jesus asked ... for which of the many good works from the Father that I have done do you wish to stone me, 10:32-33.

- (John 10:32–33 ESV) Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" 33 The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."

A. Jesus directed their minds to the reality of their evil.

good ... καλός [kalos] ... beautiful, excellent, choice, surpassing, precious, useful, suitable, commendable, admirable; genuine, approved.

B. Jesus had done so many good—*beautiful, excellent, surpassing*—things that the world could not contain the books if every one were written down.

- (John 21:25 ESV) Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

C. Jesus had traveled across their land preaching the gospel and healing thousands upon thousands.

D. The Jews were doing the will of their father when they lied and accused Jesus of blasphemy.

blasphemy ... expressing disrespect for God or for something sacred; slander, speech that is injurious, to another's good name, injurious to divine majesty.

But this was to be expected since their desire was to do the will of their father the devil.

- (John 8:44–45 ESV) You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.

E. Jesus came to do the Father's will and speak the Father's words.

- (John 5:30b ESV) ... I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

- (John 4:34 ESV) Jesus said to them, “**My food is to do the will of him who sent me** and to accomplish his work.
- (John 6:38 ESV) **For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.**
- (John 12:49a ESV) For **I have not spoken on my own authority** ...
- (John 8:28 ESV) So Jesus said to them ... **I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.**

F. Jesus was not a man making himself out to be God but God who humbled himself to be a man.

- (Philippians 2:5b–7 ESV) ... Christ Jesus, **6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.**

WHO WERE THESE PEOPLE WITH STONES IN THEIR HANDS?



OUTWARD APPEARANCE — THE PEOPLE OF GOD

REALITY — THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL



3. The Jews were the most spiritually advantaged and blessed people in all the earth.

A. They were chosen to be God’s treasured possession.

- (Deuteronomy 7:6 ESV) **For you are a people holy to the Lord your God.** The Lord your God has **chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession**, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

B. They were the keepers of the holy word of God.

- (Romans 3:1–2 ESV) **Then what advantage has the Jew?** Or what is the value of circumcision? **2 Much in every way.** To begin with, **the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.**

C. They were blessed with a righteous form of government given to them by God himself.

- (Deuteronomy 4:6–8 ESV) Keep them and do them, **for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ 7 For what great**

nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? **8 And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?**

D. Salvation came from the Jews through the Christ.

- (John 4:22 ESV) You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for **salvation is from the Jews.**

E. They were uniquely blessed as the people of God.

- (Romans 9:4–5 ESV) They are Israelites, and **to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.** **5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever.** Amen.

REALITY CHECK ...

4. However ... The reality was that during the time Jesus was on this earth—and for the majority of their existence—the Jews were anything but God’s holy people.

A. Jesus had already identified their father as the devil and that they had no relationship to God and his word whatsoever.

B. Jesus tells us that these outwardly beautiful, righteous “people of God” were inwardly dirty, hypocritical rebels and calls them blind guides, blind fools, blind men, serpents, brood of vipers, Matthew 23:16, 17, 24, 33.

- (Matthew 23:25 ESV) Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For **you clean the outside** of the cup and the plate, **but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.**
- (Matthew 23:27–28 ESV) Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you are like whitewashed tombs, which **outwardly appear beautiful**, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. **28 So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.**

C. When they made a convert, they made that person twice the child of hell that they were.

- (Matthew 23:15 NLT) **What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees.**

Hypocrites! For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you turn that person into twice the child of hell you yourselves are!

5. Jesus answered their charge of blasphemy and condemned their failure as leaders in Israel with the very Law they claimed to follow, 10:34-39.

- (John 10:34–39 ESV) 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?’ 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.

A. Jesus directed them to the oracles of God to which they had been entrusted to guard and teach.

B. Very interestingly he took them to Psalm 82 which condemns the unjust rulers in Israel.

- (Psalm 82:1–2 ESV) 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?”

C. He condemns their lack of knowledge and understanding which resulted from walking about in darkness and caused instability in their rule.

- (Psalm 82:5 ESV) They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

D. He speaks of their high position as gods they have squandered and the forthcoming judgment.

- (Psalm 82:6–7 ESV) 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.”
- (Genesis 1:26a ESV) Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion ...

E. Jesus makes the point that if God addresses them as gods—those created in his image and blessed with rule over the earth—then why is it so inconceivable for Jesus the Son of God to claim to be God.

F. It seems that when Jesus condemns them he infers that their problem was the same as in Psalm 82—that they were unjust judges and that the divine council would pronounce judgment.

CONCLUSION: A powerful juxtaposition — the command to love God — **SIDE BY SIDE** — with the practice of worshiping God but keeping ones heart far from him.

Juxtaposition: Placing dissimilar objects close together or side by side for comparison or contrast.

THE GREAT COMMAND: Love God with all your heart.

- (Deuteronomy 6:4–5 ESV) Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

THE GREAT DISOBEDIENCE: Keep your heart distant from God.

- (Isaiah 29:13–14 ESV) And the Lord said: “Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, 14 therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden.”

Why is there so much foolishness in the professing Church today? Too many pretenders and the wisdom and discernment of pretenders perishes and disappears.

- (Isaiah 40:8 ESV) The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Love God and abound in life and wisdom and discernment ... pretend to love God and descend further and further into the darkness ...