



# At the Feast of Dedication

John 10:22-42



## **Remember:**

**The events of these last 6 months are best understood in relation to 3 trips to Jerusalem made by Jesus during this time.**

**We must harmonize all four gospels in order to properly understand the chronology of this period.**



## **Remember Also:**

**Luke's Gospel records 3 instances where Jesus departs for Jerusalem (9:51; 13:22; 17:11)**

**And**

**John's Gospel narrates the events of 3 separate visits to Jerusalem or its environs (7:2ff; 10:22ff; 11:1ff).**



# Trip #2

1. To Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication
  - Late December
  - Departure – Luke 13:22
    - “And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem.”
  - Narrative of Events – John 10:22-39



We Know the Feast of Dedication Better as What?

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Happy  
Hanukkah





The background of the image is a classical painting depicting Jesus in a white robe, gesturing as he speaks to a group of people in a grand, columned hall. The scene is set in a large, open space with high ceilings and numerous columns. In the foreground, a group of people are seated on the floor, listening intently. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows. A large, semi-transparent circular overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing the text 'John 10:22-39' in red and 'Preaching at the Temple Once Again' in black.

**John 10:22-39**

**Preaching at  
the Temple  
Once Again**



# In Warmer Weather

- Jesus would have taught in one of the open-air courtyards of the temple.
- Because it was winter He taught what follows in Solomon's colonnade (portico) on the temple courtyard's eastern side.
- Perhaps John mentioned this detail because it was in Solomon's colonnade that the first Christians gathered regularly (Acts 3:11; 5:12).



B11

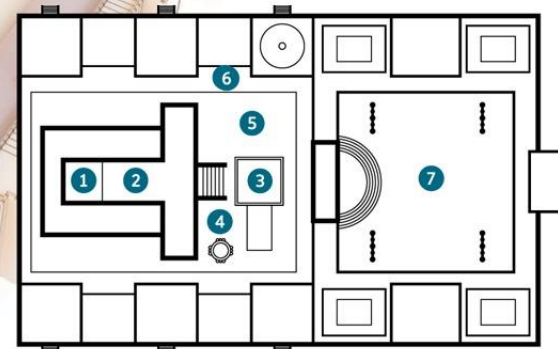
# Temple Mount in the First Century

Foundation of second temple laid 536 B.C.E.  
 Temple destroyed 70 C.E.

4000 B.C.E. 2000 B.C.E. B.C.E. / C.E. 2000 C.E.

## Temple Features

- 1 Most Holy
- 2 Holy
- 3 Altar of Burnt Offering
- 4 Sea of Cast Metal
- 5 Court of Priests
- 6 Court of Israel
- 7 Court of Women
- 8 Court of the Gentiles
- 9 Barrier (Soreg)
- 10 Royal Colonnade
- 11 Solomon's Colonnade
- 12 Fortress of Antonia





## Jesus' Enemies in John 10:24

The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.”

What is their purpose in this?



## Remember Luke 11:53-54?

**53** When He left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects, **54** plotting against Him to catch Him in something He might say.





Jesus Has Hinted  
at Messiahship

But can  
anyone  
remember  
the last time  
He was  
explicit in  
declaring  
Himself to  
anyone other  
than His  
disciples?



**Notice That in His Reply**

**Jesus is “wise as a  
serpent.”**

**Trace His strategy  
here carefully.**



# Jesus' Reply in 10:25-30

**25** Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me. **26** But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. **27** My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; **28** and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. **29** My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. **30** I and the Father are one.”



## John 10:31-32

**31** The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. **32** Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?”



# Jesus' Question

- Confronted them with the incongruity of executing a man for restoring people who had suffered from handicaps.
- Jesus' miracles testified that He was doing divine work, however the Jews did not think this through judging by their response...



## Showing Their Cards

**10:33** The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.”

They are explicit as to what they perceive Jesus' crime to be.



# Not Works, But Words

- The great irony is that any observer should realize by now that Jesus was exactly Who He claimed to be, one with the Father and more than a mere mortal.
- A man was not making Himself out to be God, but God had made Himself a man!
- And that is what Jesus says in His response.



# What the Jews Want

- For Jesus to make His claim clear here so they could accuse and eventually kill Him.
- Jesus did not give them the unambiguous answer that they requested; He had made clear claims about His identity, and many of the Jews had believed on Him.
- It was His critics' determined unbelief that made His claims obscure to them, not His inability or unwillingness to reveal Himself.



**And Furthermore...**

**For Jesus to have claimed  
to be the Jews' Messiah  
publicly would have  
fueled a political  
movement that He did  
not want to encourage.**



## **And By the Way...**

**If Jesus did not really claim to be  
God, He could easily have  
corrected the Jews'  
misunderstanding here.**

**The fact that He did not is further  
proof that the Jews correctly  
understood that He was claiming  
to be God.**



## John 10:34-38

**34** Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? **35** If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), **36** do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? **37** If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; **38** but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.”



# Some Thoughts on 10:35

“If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken)”

1. Jesus is depending on just one word (“gods”) in the OT for his argument.
2. When he says that “Scripture cannot be broken,” he implies that every single word in Scripture is completely true and reliable.
3. Notice that His opponents do not differ with this high view of Scripture, either here or anywhere else in the Gospels.



## John 10:39

**“Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp.”**

**In this exchange, the Jews want to stone Jesus (v. 31) and then arrest Him.**

**Jesus contrives to escape from their hands, but notice that the anger of His enemies has by now metastasized to murderous intent, even if impulsive and frustrated.**



# Wise Strategy on Jesus' Part

**John 10:40** And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He was staying there. **41** Many came to Him and were saying, “While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true.” **42** Many believed in Him there.



# Jesus Leaves Judea

## And Goes To Perea

### Why?





# The Political Dynamics

- Of the 1st century are essential in understanding Jesus' travels and tactics here, as well as those of His enemies.
- By traveling to Perea, Jesus has left the jurisdiction of Pilate (who could be made to do the bidding of the Jewish leadership) for that of Herod Antipas (who was not vulnerable to political manipulation as Pilate was).



# This Period

- Is often Characterized as Jesus' Perea ministry.
- Again, the title is appropriate, though it needs to be emphasized that Jesus resorts to this place for one reason – His life is in real danger in Judea.



# Jesus is Welcomed in Perea

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**why?**



# Jesus' Ministry in Perea

- Was most likely to those Jews who had followed and believed John the Baptist.
- Their attitude contrasts with the hatred and unbelief of many in Jerusalem; they accepted John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus because it proved to be true.
- The witness of John the Baptist continued to bear fruit even after his death because he pointed people to Jesus, and Jesus did not disappoint them.



# Jesus' Ministry Comes Full Circle

- **John 1:29** – The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”
- **John 10:40-42** – And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He was staying there. Many came to Him and were saying, “While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true.” Many believed in Him there.





**Next Week:**

**Jesus' Perean  
Ministry**



