

Discussion & Reflection Questions - Read John 10:22-42

1. **Jesus promises that His sheep will never perish and that no one can snatch them from His hand (John 10:27–29).** Why do believers sometimes struggle with assurance of salvation? How should these promises change where we place our confidence?
2. **Jesus describes His sheep as those who hear His voice and follow Him (John 10:27).** How can we distinguish between genuine faith that struggles with sin and a profession of faith that produces no evidence of following Christ? Why does that distinction matter?
3. **Jesus teaches that belonging to His sheep precedes believing, while Scripture also calls every sinner to repent and believe (John 10:26; 6:37, 44).** How should God's sovereignty in salvation influence our humility, our prayers, and our willingness to share the Gospel?
4. **Jesus defends His identity using the precise wording of Scripture and declares that Scripture cannot be broken (John 10:34–36).** What is the difference between discovering what a passage teaches and making it say what we want? How can we become more faithful students of God's Word?
5. **John concludes with two contrasting responses to Jesus: rejection in Jerusalem and belief across the Jordan (John 10:39–42).** What do these responses reveal about the human heart? How can we guard against resisting God's truth when it challenges our assumptions or calls us to change?

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The Gospel of John “The Shepherd Who Will Never Let You Go”- John 10:22-42 October 18, 2026 - Rev. Daniel A. Johnson

Central Truth: The security of our salvation does not ultimately rest on the strength of our faithfulness, but on the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.

The Context (John 10:22–26) - During the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah), the religious leaders confront Jesus and demand that He identify Himself as the Messiah.

Jesus reminds them that His words and works have already revealed His identity. Their problem is not a lack of evidence, but unbelief.

John 10:26: *"But you do not believe because you are not among my sheep."*

- The order of Jesus' words matters. Our theology must be shaped by Scripture.
- Salvation is the gracious work of God (John 6:37, 44).
- Every sinner is responsible to repent and believe, yet no one comes apart from God's gracious drawing.

Three Truths About Our Good Shepherd

1. The Shepherd Knows Those Who Belong to Him (v. 27)

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

- His sheep hear His voice and respond in faith.
- Jesus knows His sheep personally and completely.
- Genuine faith produces a changed life—not sinless perfection, but a new direction.

Key Truth: We don't follow Jesus in order to become His sheep. We follow Jesus because we belong to Him.

2. The Shepherd Gives a Life That Can Never Perish (v. 28)

"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."

Jesus makes three extraordinary promises:

- **Eternal life is a gift**, not something we earn.
- **His sheep will never perish.** This is an absolute promise.
- **No one can snatch them from His hand.** Our salvation rests securely in Christ.

Key Truth: Our confidence rests on the promise of a perfect Shepherd, not our ability to be perfect sheep.

3. The Shepherd Possesses the Divine Power to Keep His Sheep Forever (vv. 28–30)

- The Son holds His sheep securely.
- The Father holds His sheep securely.
- Jesus declares, "I and the Father are one."
- The identity of the Shepherd guarantees His promise.

The Perseverance of the Saints: Genuine believers continue in faith because God graciously preserves them.

Key Truth: We don't persevere in order to make Christ preserve us. We persevere because Christ preserves us.

Additional Scriptures: John 6:39; Romans 8:38–39.

The Identity and Authority of Jesus (John 10:31–39)

The religious leaders accuse Jesus of blasphemy because He claims equality with God.

They believe a man is making Himself God. In reality, **God has become man** (John 1:1, 14).

Jesus defends His identity through Scripture and His works.

John 10:35: "Scripture cannot be broken."

- God's Word carries divine authority.
- Scripture must be interpreted according to its historical setting, grammar, and context.
- Our responsibility is to discover God's intended meaning, not impose our own.

Key Truth: If Scripture cannot be broken, then Scripture must not be bent.

Two Responses to the Same Savior (John 10:40–42)

In Jerusalem, the religious leaders reject Jesus. Across the Jordan, many believe because of John the Baptist's faithful testimony.

Key Truth: We're not called to be creative with the meaning of Scripture. We're called to be faithful to the meaning of Scripture.

Bringing It Home

Throughout John 10, Jesus reveals Himself as the Door, the Good Shepherd, and the One who eternally preserves His sheep.

He calls His sheep. He knows His sheep. He lays down His life for His sheep. **And He keeps His sheep.**

Our confidence rests not in our faithfulness, but in His.

Final Thought: The Shepherd doesn't save His sheep and hope they make it home. He saves His sheep. He keeps His sheep. And He will bring His sheep home.

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