



April 21, 2019 John 10: 22-30 Acts 13: 14, 43-52

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

We all long for the day when we don't need faith anymore, because someone or something proves to us that what Jesus preached is really true. Like the people in this story, we want Jesus to "speak plainly". Yes or no, are you the Christ? Jesus responds in a way that throws the question back to the questioner. He in effect says, if you really have heard what I have been trying to tell you, nothing will be able to rob you of your truth. But, if you just want me to tell you what you want to hear, anyone or anything can snatch your "truth" from you. It's up to you to decide. He leaves us free. Do you like this freedom or would you like the illusion of apparent knowing?

John 10: 22-30

10: ²² At that time the **festival of the Dedication** took place in Jerusalem. It was **winter**, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the **portico of Solomon**. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "**How long** will you keep us in **suspense**? If you are the **Messiah**, tell us **plainly**." ²⁵

Jesus answered, "**I have told you**, and you do not believe. The **works** that I do in my **Father's name** testify to me; ²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not **belong** to my **sheep**. ²⁷ My **sheep** hear my **voice**. **I know** them, and they **follow me**. ²⁸ I give them **eternal life**, and they will **never perish**. No one will **snatch** them out of my hand. ²⁹ What my **Father** has **given me** is greater than all else, and no one can **snatch** it out of the **Father's** hand. ³⁰ The **Father** and I are one."

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Who or what helps you to truly "know" Jesus' voice?

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, the more I reflect on the people's struggle to believe Jesus' words and deeds in the gospels, the more compassion I have for them. Even now, with the benefit of the Resurrection I still have trouble believing at times. When I experience being loved by you and others, I know down deep that this is the only reality that truly matters. When I accept that this reality I am beyond being snatched out of the Father's hand. Help me to trust what I know. Amen