

The Essence of Life!

Twelve Sessions in the Gospel of John

Session Six:

Wrapping up the Great Debate

5-8-03

Not every encounter with Jesus ended in belief! Not now...and not during his time on earth! To this point, we've seen a high degree of success in his encounters:

- With Nicodemus
- With the Hungry Crowd
- With the Samaritan Woman
- With the Blind Man

In this face-off, however, Jesus will come up against the group whose unbelief will only grow and sour, resulting in conspiracy with the Romans, culminating at the cross.

They are referred to as "the Jews", religious leaders whose position in society was at risk due to the prominence of this upstart Rabbi. It was not that they misunderstood him -- their feedback made that clear -- it was, rather, that they could not swallow his most staggering claim. Can you?

A. Seven Segments of the Great Debate

1. "Who are you to do what you do?"
John 2:18-25
2. "Why don't you follow our rules?"
John 5:16-47
3. "How could you be from heaven?"
John 6:41-59
4. "Where did you learn this stuff?"
John 7:14-24
5. "How can you prove your case?"
John 8:12-59
6. "What do you say about us?"
John 9:40-10:21
7. "What do you say about yourself?"
John 10:22-39

B. What Jesus Said About the Jewish Leaders

1. They were victims of spiritual blindness
John 9:40-41
2. They were thieves and robbers
John 10:1, 8, 10
3. They were strangers to the sheep
John 10:5
4. They were bad shepherds
John 10:11, 14-18
5. They were hired hands
John 10:12-13

C. What Jesus Said About Himself to the Jewish Leaders

1. He was validated by his works
John 10:25
2. He was aware of their hearts
John 10:26
3. He was able to insure salvation
John 10:27-28
4. He was uniquely connected to the Father
John 10:29
5. He was the God of the Jews
John 10:30

D. The Closing Argument of the Great Debate

1. The Jews were finished talking
John 10:31-33
2. Jesus said he was like no other man
John 10:34-36
3. Jesus said he was just like his Father
John 10:37-38

Essence

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand."

John 10:27-28

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