

Accepting Your Acceptance

Living the Liturgical Year

John 10:22-30

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

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, ^a 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 My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

REFLECTION

The readings for this Good Shepherd Sunday highlight the imagery of Jesus as a shepherd. This particular group of Jews wants Jesus to skip the suspense, and tell them plainly if He is truly the Messiah. In the same way, it would be ideal for us if Jesus answered plainly the answers to all our questions and sorrows. **Where is it currently the most difficult for you to sit in suspense and wait for Jesus?**

Jesus's response to the reason that this group doesn't believe is because they don't belong to his sheep. Because they refuse to identify themselves as creatures in need of help, they are unable to identify him as the Messiah. Even in times of joy, we will still feel sadness, exhaustion, or overwhelmed. **How self-aware of your own needs are you? How easy is it for you to accept that you need a shepherd?**

"Faith is simply accepting your acceptance," said Franciscan Priest Richard Rohr. It's hard for us to believe that there's not a breaking point beyond which God won't accept us. We tend to think this way since most of our relationships have some hint of conditionality. If we're willing to accept that we are a person in need, we will have the One whose voice we will recognize, and whose presence will comfort and protect us. **What is preventing you from accepting this invitation from Jesus?**

Read [Psalm 23](#). Consider how the one-way, unconditional love of God keeps you not in suspense, but rather keeps you all the days of your life.