

Jesus Asserts His Deity: Receive Him or Reject Him?

John 10:19-42

Throughout human history there have been many individuals who made the claim of greatness. Some even carried the adjective in their names or titles: Darius the Great (Ruler of the Persian Empire); Herod the Great (Ruler of Judea); Alexander the Great (Ruler of the Greek Empire); Peter the Great (Tsar of the Russian Empire) and of course Muhammad Ali (The greatest of all time).

Often political rulers considered themselves gods: the Pharaohs of Egypt; many of the Emperors of Rome; even some Chinese and Japanese rulers were considered gods.

Setting: The Feast of Dedication. (22-23) John records that it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the Temple in the portico of Solomon.

- **Jewish hostility grows.** John's opening prologue gave us an insight of the rejection of the Jews toward their Messiah. John 1:10-11, *"He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him"*.

(John 5:18, John 7:1, John 7:19, John 7:25, John 8:37, John 8:40, John 8:59, and John 10:31-33)

His "hour" was drawing near, but God alone determined the time, place, and means of Jesus' death!

- **Jesus' Deity affirmed.** When the Jewish leaders questioned Jesus concerning His identity, Jesus did not hesitate in affirming His deity (His oneness with God the Father).

John records for us the testimony and witness concerning the identity of Jesus. John builds the case by adding witness upon witness, testimony upon testimony. The witnesses and the testimony are all in agreement; Jesus is the Christ the Son of God.

- **First, there is the witness of God the Father. (John 8:18b)**
 - **Jesus, God the Son, also bore witness to Himself. (John 8:14)**
 - **The witness of God the Holy Spirit. (John 15:26)**
 - **Jesus also pointed to His works. (John 10:25b)**
 - **The witness of Scripture. (John 5:39)**
 - **The witness of John the Baptist. (John 1:29-34)**
 - **The witness of Jesus' disciples, including John himself. (John 15:27)**
 - **The witness of those men and women whose lives were radically changed by Christ! (John 9:25)**
- **Humanity and Deity are essential.** Today people have some convoluted notion that our salvation could be secured apart from Jesus being God. We can be saved by the "spiritual idea or concept" of Jesus, even if there never was an historical Jesus! **The deity of Christ is the very bedrock of the Christian faith! If Jesus is not God, the whole Christian faith implodes like a house of cards!**

How is it possible for Jesus to be fully God and fully man? The incarnation!

John's prologue again introduces us to the doctrine of the incarnation, as does the ancient hymn of the early church, Philipians 2:5-11 and Colossians 1:13-20 and 2:9.

Only Jesus Christ, the Son of God, fully man (made in our likeness) and fully God (possessing all the attributes of God) could die for our sin and reconcile us to a holy God! It fulfills all the demands of God's justice, while displaying God's mercy and grace!

Application: In reality there are only two options concerning Christ: You receive Him or you reject Him! You cannot be neutral toward Jesus. A choice this morning not to receive Him, is a choice to reject Him.

I set before you life and death; choose wisely my friends.