

John 10:22

About 150 years before Jesus was born, a pagan king had conquered Jerusalem and made the temple unclean by sacrificing a pig in it. Some brave Jewish freedom fighters, called the Maccabees, set Jerusalem free and re-dedicated the temple to God. The Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) is a Jewish festival celebrating that re-dedication of the temple. The feast usually occurs in December, last eight days and is celebrated with lights.

(1)

Think about [John 10:22-24](#).

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

- Where was Jesus when the Jews surrounded him?
- What did these Jews accuse Jesus of doing to them?
- What was the most important thing the Jews wanted to know about Jesus?
- Why did these Jews want to know this about Jesus?

[Matthew 26:63-67](#) the high priest said to him (Jesus), "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so." ... Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, ...

(2)

Think about [John 10:25](#).

Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me"

- When these unbelieving Jews demanded Jesus tell them if he was the Christ, how did Jesus answer them?
- What is one of the ways Jesus had told the Jews that he was the Christ?

[John 5:17-23](#) Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because ... he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. So Jesus said to them, ... "the Father loves the Son ... For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. For the Father ... has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

- What is another way Jesus had told the Jews that he was the Christ?

[John 5:30-37](#) (Jesus said) *"I can do nothing on my own. ... If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. ... For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me."*

(3)

Think about [John 10:26-29](#).

(Jesus said) "but you (Jews) do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."

- What is the reason these Jews did not believe Jesus was the Christ?
- In these passage, what nine truths does Jesus declare about his sheep?
- What do you think? Which of these declarations is important to you?
- How can you know if someone is truly among Jesus' sheep?

[Matthew 7:15-17](#) (Jesus said) *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit."*
