

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #169

(Note: You can read the online Newspaper edition of this post [here](#).)

The Crowd Divides Over Jesus Again

John 10.19-21

19 The Jews who heard these words were again divided. 20 Many of them were saying, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why would anyone listen to him?"

21 But others were saying, "These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	The Streets of Jerusalem
Timeline	September (Month 31)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	B. Jesus' Ministry at the Feast of Tabernacles
	5. Jesus' Final Teaching at Tabernacles: "I AM the Door, and Good Shepherd
Title	v. The Crowd Divides Over Jesus Again

COMMENT:

Today's text ended Jesus' ministry in September over the last two days of the Feast of Tabernacles (JN 7.12-10.22).

John ended his description of Jesus' ministry at the Feast of Tabernacles with another snapshot of the division that Jesus created in the crowd. A year earlier, when he trained the twelve apostles before sending them out on his third tour of Galilee, Jesus had said:

"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies will be the members of his own household." MT 10.34-36.

Jesus came to bring division to the world by making absolute claims about himself, and universal commands to every person to believe in him with an obedient, loving attitude. His love will not leave us alone. Jesus forces people to respond to him; neutrality is not an option.

In contrast, Jesus came to bring the love, unity and peace that characterizes relationships in the Trinity to those who believe in him. One flock, with one Good Shepherd.

Love and union with the Father, Son and Spirit as individual Christians is intended to create the same love and unity among all believers. This was John's point in contrasting the way the Good Shepherd brings peace and unity to his own flock, while creating division in the world.

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Looking ahead, Jesus will next depart from Jerusalem, send out 35 teams of two disciples each in itinerant ministry, and then make a great tour of the villages of Judea, and then Perea over the next six months. While continuing the work of proclaiming the gospel, Jesus would increase his concentration on discipleship training. These will be the final months of training of his followers, in preparation for his departure for heaven the next Spring.

APPLICATION:

Division in the world; unity in the flock. That was Jesus' plan, and passion. He will give his life to accomplish it.

It is tragic that the same division that characterizes the world also rips through the Good Shepherd's flock. Unity among believers is not a luxury; it is the only sure foundation for outreach to the world. So Jesus prayed:

"I pray also for those who believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (JN 17.20-21) I in them and you in me; may they be brought to complete unity so that the world may know that you have sent me, and have loved them even as you have loved me." (17.23)

How will you pray, and live for unity in the body of Christ?