

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #200

Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem at the Feast of dedication

Jesus and the Father are One

John 10.27-30

27 *"My sheep make a practice of listening to my voice; I know them, and they continually follow me. 28 I keep on giving them eternal life, and they will never, ever perish; no one will ever snatch them out of my hand.*

29 *"My Father, who has permanently given them over to me, is greater than all; no one is able to snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I, myself, and the Father are one."*

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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	Solomon's Colonnade in the Temple Complex, Jerusalem
Timeline	Feast of Dedication, Dec. 19 th (Month 35)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	E. Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem at the Feast of Dedication
Title	4. Jesus and the Father Are One

COMMENT:

Jesus continued his conversation with the Jewish leaders in Solomon's porch of the Temple in today's reading.

During the feast of Tabernacles Jesus had made his fourth "I AM" statement in JN 10.11: ***"I AM the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*** (DJN #167) Jesus identified his willingness to die for the sheep as the primary characteristic of his goodness.

In today's reading Jesus added a second quality to his "goodness"--his ability to protect his sheep:

"I keep on giving them eternal life, and they will never, ever perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand."

On one hand, Jesus protects those who believe in him by giving us an ever new infusion of God's quality of life. Eternal life is not static--a physical commodity--as much as it is an ever-fresh reception of God's living presence--like a flowing river. God constantly makes us alive in non-stop, fresh in-flows of His Spirit.

On the other hand, Jesus protects us by holding us secure in his nail-scarred hands. He used the grammatical form of "emphatic negation" again here to underscore the absolute certainty of his warm, reassuring grip on us. How strong is that grip?

God, his Father, is greater than all of his creation. Omnipotence is a characteristic of God alone. Because Jesus is one with his father in all things, Jesus' grip on those who believe in him is equally omnipotent with his Father. They share one divine nature. Jesus' power to protect us is absolute, and infinite!

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The statement that **"my Father is grater than all"** does not diminish Jesus' power in comparison to the Father. Rather, Jesus said this to elevate his own authority in oneness with the Father to the point of co-equal omnipotence as God. This is one of the strongest Divine claims of Jesus' ministry, and it was made in the context of guaranteeing our eternal security in his saving power.

The Pharisees understood Jesus to be making a massive divine claim with these words, for in the next reading we will find that they immediately picked up stones to kill him for the sin of blasphemy, **"for you, a mere man, are making yourself out to be God."** (JN 10.33)

The Good Shepherd gives his own life for his sheep, and he protects their lives in the same way. In other words, our eternal salvation is forever certain in him.

APPLICATION:

Jesus gave absolute promises to save anybody who believed in Him...forever! No other person in history has made salvation promises, or Divine claims like Jesus.

Only God can tell us absolutely that if we believe in him, HE will guarantee that we will live eternally together with him in perfect love and goodness, and NOTHING will be able to force a change in our salvation.

Some Christians believe that it is possible for a person to believe in Jesus, receive salvation, and then lose it through subsequent sins that disqualify them from continuing in the salvation there were given earlier. Absolute promises like this one from Jesus disqualify that view. If God is omnipotent, HE can guarantee eternal life with no conditions, as Jesus did here. Jesus did just that.

Every believer should take Jesus as his Word here, and rejoice in the assurance of eternal salvation. Jesus spoke these words to give us that strong confidence.

Are you 100% sure of your salvation? Jesus wants to you to be confidence in HIS power to save you forever. Take him at his Word today.