

The Jews Questioned Jesus, *Tell us plainly, are You the Christ?* (John 10:22-30)

1. Jesus responded to the Jews' question, in His wonderfully unique way, declaring great truths...
 - The works that He did were a clear statement that He is the Christ, the Messiah. (v.25)
 - Cause of unbelief: *But you don't believe because you are not My sheep.* (v.26)
 - ***My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me*** (v.27)
 - *I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone 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 My Father's hand.* (v.29)
 - *I and My Father are one.* (v.30)
 - The Jews responded poorly to what Jesus said.... They picked up stones to stone Him.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me

1. God speaks to His people – They hear - He knows us - We follow Him
 - The Bible records that God spoke directly to many in the Old Testament, beginning with Adam, then others: Noah, Abraham, Moses, the prophets. (see Hebrews 11:1-2)
 - The New Testament also records the Holy Spirit speaking to people in many ways. (John 16:13-15)

Ways that God Speaks to People today

1. There are many ways God speaks to us daily
 - He speaks thru creation. (Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:20).
 - He speaks thru the moral sense placed in the human conscience, so that a fundamental sense of right and wrong is innately present (Romans 2:14,15).
 - He speaks thru the evidence of instances of divine providence that affect our lives (Gen 28:10-17; Acts 16:7)
 - He speaks thru the signs and wonders or prophetic promptings of the Holy Spirit, and by these means He often convinces people of His power and presence (2Kings 2:15; Acts 13:12; 1Corinthians 14:5,22-26).
 - He speaks thru the still small voice of God that sometimes addresses people in their hearts (Isaiah 30:21; Acts 10:9-12)
 - He speaks thru the Word of God, the Bible, the Holy Scriptures (2Timothy 3:14-17) which He has given to us through prophets and apostles by the Holy Spirit (2Peter1:19-21)
 - He has spoken, ultimately through His Son, Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, who has declared to us the Father's love and the way of salvation thru faith in Him. (John 14:1-12; Hebrews 1:1-4)
 - God speaks to us by the Holy Spirit, instructively, correctively, directly or protectively.
 - God speaks as the Holy Spirit 'brings alive' something we are reading in scripture...
 - When we get inner promptings, divinely given intuition, insight or warning...
 - When the Holy Spirit prompts with prophetic words which give clarity of understanding of His will as revealed in the Word.
 - God ALWAYS speaks in accordance with the Scriptures, which is the absolute & final authority.

What we do with what we hear

1. What we do with what we 'hear' is important.
 - *If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear. Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.* (Mark 4:23-24)
 - Jesus says, "Take heed what you hear, only to the degree you *hear* [receive and respond] will you be able to experience what God has for you."
2. 'Hearing' is more than just information → the desired result is 'incarnation' – [personification, embodiment]
 - When we get the Word of God into our mind → information
 - When the Word of God touches and stirs up our emotions → inspiration
 - When the Word gets into our heart and is authentically lived out → incarnation