

RECOGNIZING OUR REDEEMER

John 10:22-30

I. MISSING THE MESSAGE

- A. *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”*
(John 10:27)
- B. Why Are You Here?
 - 1. You have heard his voice.
 - 2. You may not know everything about Jesus, or much about the Bible, much less about theology, but you know him.
 - 3. A George Barna quiz:
 - What is the first book of the Bible?
 - What is celebrated on Easter?
 - Who preached the Sermon on the Mount?
- C. *“How Long Will You Keep Us in Suspense?”* (John 10:24)
 - 1. The establishment did not recognize Jesus’ voice.
 - 2. They were looking and listening for a military messiah; a Judas Maccabee kind of superpower.
 - 3. *“Life is simple. We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent, and God is shining through it all the time.”* (Merton)

II. WHAT’S THE MESSAGE

- A. *“And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.”* (John 10:28)
- B. Big Paws. Fierce Growl.
 - 1. You live in the hand of God.
 - 2. *“With this magnificent God positioned among us, Jesus brings the assurance that our universe is a perfectly safe place for us to be.”*
(Dallas Willard)
 - 3. Not because bad things won’t happen to us, but because, as Paul put it, *“Who will separate us from the love of Christ?”* (Rom. 8:35)
 - 4. This is the discovery of the psalmist: *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me.”* (Psalm 23)
- C. The Leap of Faith.
 - 1. You can defy Pharaoh.
 - 2. You can occupy the Promised Land.
 - 3. You can stand up to Goliath.
- D. Write This Down:
 - 1. *“You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you.”*
(Isaiah 43:4)
 - 2. *“No one will snatch you out of my hand.”* (John 10:29)

Prayer Concerns: Members – Virginia Baker, Burney Biesel, Sarah Clark, Patty Gibson, Jim Green, **Jean Holcomb, Diane Mallard**, Anne Miller, Mary Jo Moore, Carol Webb ... **Friends** – Pat Bryan, Penny Guthrie, Jim Hayes, Seth & Reece Jenson, **Ellen Kaplan, Dillon LaRue, Bill MacArthur, Andy Schumacher, Shirley Waldron, Cindy Waldron, Frances Wright, Virginia Tech, Our Troops** ...

PASTORAL PRAYER

O God, you are our refuge. When we're exhausted by life's demands; when we're bewildered by life's problems; when we're wounded by life's sorrows; we come to you for refuge.

O God, you are our strength. When our work is beyond our power; when our temptations are too strong for us; when duty calls for more than we have to give it; we come to you for strength.

O God, you are a very present help in time of trouble. When we have nothing to call our own, you claim us as your own; when we weep, you wipe away our tears; when someone puts us down or throws us out, you pick us up and bring us in; when we feel like the whole world is against us; we come to you for help.

O God, we will not fear, even though our loved ones go to war and students are killed in Blacksburg, Virginia; even though drugs and dangers we can not even imagine lure our children; even though sickness strikes and families are threatened; we come to you for courage.

O God, we know that you are always with us. We know that you fight for us and protect us. We know how much you love us. Help us to believe in your love and in your power so that we may be certain that you are able to do far more than we ask or think. All this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

JOHN 10:22-30

It was the feast of the Dedication at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered round him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall 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. I and the Father are one."

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

May 6 *Breaking Down Barriers* Acts 11:1-18

May 13 *This Isn't Your Grandmother's Family*
Deuteronomy 6:4-15

Mother's Day

May 20 *If You Get Where You're Going, Where Will You Be?* Matthew 7:24-27

Graduating Senior Sunday

May 27 *What Did He Say?* Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost Sunday

On the Radio (1450 AM):

May 6 *Gut-check Christianity* James 1:1-12

May 13 *How to Handle Temptation* James 1:13-18

May 20 *The Ultimate Workout* James 1:19-27

May 27 *Loving the Unlovely* James 2:1-13