

**Jesus' "Blasphemy:" Our Disbelief**  
**John 10:19-42**  
**Sermon Outline**

**Introduction:** Many people, then and now, persist in disbelief.

**I) Why disbelief is understandable**

Jesus claims and promises too much

**A) Jesus claims too much: To be God I the flesh**

*Vs. 36: I and the Father are one*

- Hinduism
- Islam
  
- Imagine your preacher saying, "I am the good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep," and "I give you eternal life...."

**B) Jesus promises too much**

*Vs. 34: You are gods...*

- Restoring the image of God in us.

**II) Why disbelief is strange**

**A) It persists, despite the good works that corroborate it**

*Vs. 21: These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?*

*Vs. 25: The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me.*

- 1) Jesus was an astonishing miracle worker
- 2) His miracles were good works.
- 3) Dealing with miracle

**B) Disbelief can be violent**

*Vs. 31: They picked up stones again to kill him*

Strange given Jesus' message and manner

**III) Why, according to Jesus, disbelief persists**

Spiritual deafness: *vs. 26: You do not hear because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice.....*

**A) We cannot hear**

**B) We won't hear**

## IV) What do we do?

**Conclusion:** We can risk hearing because God loves us. Every good work was the prelude to the best work of all

### Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) Why does 70% of the world population not believe in Jesus?
- 2) Discuss the following statements:  
Among Pantheists, like [Hindus], anyone might say that he was a part of God, or one with God; there would be nothing very odd about that. But this man, since he was a Jew, could not mean that kind of God. God, in their language, meant the Being outside the world who had made it and was infinitely different from anything else. And when you have grasped that, you will see that what [Jesus] said was, quite simply, the most shocking thing that has ever been uttered by human lips.” (C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)  
  
God does not reveal himself to any one in any way. God reveals only his will...This is God’s will and that is all we have—and we have it in perfection in the Qur’an. But Islam does not equate the Qur’an with the nature or essence of God...God is transcendent...You may not have a complete transcendence and self-revelation at the same time.” (Isma if al-Farugi, speaking in 1976 at the Chambesy Consultation on “Christian Mission and Islamic Da’wah”).
- 3) Look up Psalm 82, from which Jesus quotes to make his case for the propriety of claiming to be God’s Son. What sort of argument does he make?
- 4) Why do some people dismiss Jesus’ miracles as being un-historical? What do you think of their reasoning?
- 5) Discuss or reflect on the following statement: “The miracles of Jesus make no sense only if we choose to believe (ahead of time) that there is no God who rules the cosmos and who is able to suspend his usual ordering of things. Or, if we choose to believe that, if there is a God, he does not care all that much about us. But if we were to assume that there is a God, a personal and good God, who decided to come into our midst to repair the wreckage that we have brought upon ourselves, then it makes great sense that he would call attention to what he is up to by means of unusual signs. And it makes sense, since his intentions are good, that those signs would be good.”
- 6) Jesus was a man of peace, full of good deeds and promises of good things for those who trust him. Why, then, was he greeted with such hostility? Why did people routinely try to kill him?
- 7) Jesus says that people persist in disbelief because they are not his sheep, which seems to mean that, despite how clearly and lovingly he speaks, many people cannot and will not listen to what he says. Assuming that this analysis is true, what should we do about it? How do we train ourselves to hear his voice?