

# Lectionary Gospel Commentaries

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## Based on the Lectionary Pericope Covering:

SOLA-LSB (Lutheran Service Book):  
RCL (Revised Common Lectionary):

## John 10:22-30

Year C - Easter 4, Text: John 10:22-30  
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### Context for Today's Pericope:

In John 10, Jesus declares Himself to be the Good Shepherd, the Divine King — indicating that the ideal conditions of the End Time have found their fulfillment in and through His Messianic ministry, though faith in and fellowship with Him.

Although Jesus came first to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, His apostles and followers are to go beyond these limits. They are to proclaim Jesus' messianic message of salvation to all nations. Jesus' glorification will make this worldwide mission possible (10:17–18).

His glorification springs from a death that no one forces on Him — a death that leads to His resurrection. Not only does Jesus have the power to lay down His life; He also has the power to take it up again. Little wonder then that Jesus' Father loves Him! Jesus' resurrection is an event in which His Father endorses and validates His Son's Messianic servant ministry.

Jesus' words cause a division among His hearers (v. 19). Some of His opponents seek to stone Him to death (v. 14); some say that He is demon-possessed and out of His mind (v. 20); others disagree with this opinion (v. 21); and some plot to arrest Him (v. 39).

**Verses 10:22–30** describe what takes place while Jesus is walking in the Jerusalem Temple (in Solomon's Porch) during the Feast of Dedication (v. 22–23). This festival celebrated the rededication of the Temple in 164 BC after the Maccabees overcame the attempts of Antiochus IV Epiphanes of Syria to Hellenize the Jewish people. Jewish people continue to observe this festival on December 25, our Christmas Day.

**Verse 10:24:** Some Jews gather around Jesus and ask Him to declare, once and for all, whether or not He is the Messiah.

**Verses 10:25–30:** Almost every time Jesus is asked this question, He does not give a direct answer (see

Luke 22:27, 28). Why? The question is not a genuine request for the truth. How can Jesus make any plainer what He has already said? All that He can do is again refer to the witness of His works and actions (see 5:35; 10:38). If these people had belonged to His flock, they would not need to ask this question; they would know immediately who Jesus is.

Jesus does not say who He is but rather what He gives to His sheep. That should make clear His identity. Above all, He points to the Father with whom He is one. They are one God, with the same will and the same saving plan for the lost sheep of humanity.

How do Jesus' questioners react? Once again, they take up stones to stone Him (10:31).

Still today many find it difficult to understand and embrace Jesus' big message — a message that we, His sheep, need to hear, read, and heed constantly. God's "big truth" is that He does not call us merely to believe in His Son; He calls us also to follow Him.

