



THE STRONGEST HANDS

Check in on each other. Share what challenges and joys you are experiencing in life right now.

If someone is able to share their *Story of Faith*, invite them to do so. Take a few minutes to share *Evidences of God's Grace* together, closing in grateful prayer to God for His for His faithfulness.

OPENING COMMENT

In this study we focus primarily on the sufficiency of Scripture and how it is that we hear God's voice. One of the temptations of our place and time is to major on individual prophetic words and minor on God's Word, while another temptation is to avoid the gifts of the Holy Spirit all together. How should we navigate these issues?

What stood out to you from Sunday's text and sermon?

READ THE TEXT: John 10:19-30

¹⁹Truly ¹⁹There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?" ²¹Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My 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. ³⁰I and the Father are one."



I: THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE (vv 19-26)

1. Jesus had made it plain to the people that He was the Son of God, both through the words He said and the signs that pointed to His divinity. But the people wanted more. Did this have more to do with the ambiguity and vagueness of Jesus or the doubt and disbelief of the people? What is it about us that doubts God?
2. Read John 20:30-31. We want more information, not less. More answers to our questions, not less. What does John's thesis statement regarding his Gospel remind us about the sufficiency of Scripture? Is it your experience that Jesus has made plain all that we need to know for faith and practice in His Word?

II: HOW TO HEAR FROM GOD (vv 26-27)

1. Read Hebrews 1:1-2. How does the writer of Hebrews say that we hear from God? In light of the first point about Scripture's sufficiency, how should we approach the subject of hearing God's voice?
2. Has it been your experience, or the experience of others you know, that the Bible seems to be God's "boring" method of speaking to us and things like listening prayer is the "exciting" way to hear from God? What is the danger in this way of thinking?
3. Read Acts 2:17-21. You cannot read through the Book of Acts without recognizing that God speaks to His people through prophecy, visions, and dreams by the Holy Spirit. Acts begins with the church casting lots and ends with them hearing from God. That said, we evaluate prophecy by the Word of God not the Word of God by prophecy (which unfortunately is pervasive today). How should we test the prophetic to ensure that we're hearing from Jesus (Heb 1:2)?

III: THE ETERNAL GRIP OF OUR GOOD SHEPHERD AND ETERNAL FATHER (vv 27-30)

1. Those who are His sheep are branded in two places, the *ear* and the *foot*. They *hear* His voice and *follow* Him. How can we know if we are His?
2. How do these verses bring encouragement to you about assurance of salvation?

CONCLUSION

What is recorded in Scripture (and in the Gospel of John itself) is sufficient for faith in the Son of God for salvation. Those who hear His voice and follow Him are His sheep and nothing can snatch them from His hand.



SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of this text and your discussion around it.
- Thank God that the sheep of His fold are held in the strongest hands.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

