

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with  
one another in our homes

## John 10:22-42 - Keith Fitzpatrick

In this text, Jesus is at the Temple in Jerusalem during the Feast of Dedication. Confronted by a group of Jews who want Jesus to confess or not that he is the Christ, Jesus responds, telling them he has already made that clear, but they cannot hear it because they are not his sheep. Jesus' sheep hear his voice and follow him. Then, Jesus declares his sheep's assurance as God's possessions, stating in v.28, "...no one will snatch them out of my hand." Further, Jesus proclaims his unity with God the Father, angering the Jews who threaten to stone him for blasphemy.

Using this text, Pastor Ted demonstrated the assurance we should have that we are God's eternal possessions. Assurance that no power can take us from him. Our struggle with assurance can manifest from sin, spiritual drought, or having a poor mental disposition. Whatever the source, lack of assurance can cause darkness in our spirit and dishonors God.

The answer is to trust in Christ. Those who put their faith in Christ will experience continually growing assurance. We belong to God. We are his possessions.

### Discussion:

- Read John 10:27 aloud. What possessive words does Jesus use here?
- As Christians, we know that God has adopted us as his sons. Ted said we are not "second rate citizens, but heirs of the Kingdom." Read Romans 8:15. Think about life in first-century Palestine. What would have been the significance of being called a son? What status and privileges were likely associated with that title?
- Reread v.27. Jesus said, "my sheep hear my voice." In what ways do you hear God's voice? How does hearing God speak to you give you greater assurance that you are his?
- Jesus said, "I know them." Jesus has a relationship with his sheep. What are some ways that we live out our relationship with Jesus? (hint: you are doing it right now)
- Jesus said, "they follow me." As Jesus' sheep, we follow him. We are not his *possessions* because we follow. We should follow Jesus because we are his possession. What is the distinction between these?
- You are God's possessions solely because of what Jesus has done, despite you. That's the power of the gospel. Have you ever deceived yourself into thinking that a particular situation (sin or spiritual drought) has in a small or big way caused separation between you and Jesus?

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- Read 2 Cor 1:21-22. What is a *guarantee*? Think about how you may potentially struggle with assurance in the future. What can we do or practice to help us remember the assurance we have as sons when times get tough?
  - Ted said, “We stand on the promises in scripture.” What are some promises in scripture that bring you comfort? Read them aloud.
  - Read Romans 8:38-39. Reminder: as you go about your week, think about ways you might be trying to earn your way to God. Pray that God takes that burden from you. Ted said, “It is finished; stop trying to earn God’s approval!”