

Oct 24 - **John 10:22-42 "Where do you locate yourself?"**

1. What are some of the places we "locate" our sense of self, identity, worth and value as human beings? What impact does it have on us personally and relationally when we do so?

**Read John 10:22-42**

2. Location plays a key role in understanding this text. Jerusalem is in the throes of celebrating the Feast of Dedication. In the feast they celebrated Judas Maccabeus' victory over the Syrian forces in 164 BC, his cleansing the temple from foreign idols, and the reconstituting of true worship. Israel is again under foreign rule, the holy city profaned by idolatrous images, the yearning for a messiah after the pattern of Judas Maccabeus would have been at a feverous pitch. How does this background shed light on the Jewish leaders' question of Jesus in vs. 24?
3. The Jewish leaders sought to locate Jesus based on their own terms of reference. Are there ways that we seek to locate Jesus based on our own terms of reference? What impact does that have on us?
4. The Jews are asking Jesus to join them in their vision of a nationalistic kingdom taken by power and violence. What does Jesus' response tell us about the kind of Messiah he is, and the kind of kingdom that concerns him?
5. **Read Matthew 3:13-17, Psalm 2, Isaiah 42: 1-4.** Jesus retreats to the place where he was baptised by John. In light of where the Jewish leaders sought to locate him how does returning to this place serve to reorient Jesus to who he is and why he has come?
6. Jesus beckons us to such a place. Whatever life throws at it, whatever others say of us, whatever seeks to define us and give us value and worth and identity we are being invited to locate ourselves in what God says of us in Jesus. Who are we in Christ and how does that provide for us a solid foundation and a transformative trajectory for our lives?
7. The early church located themselves in this place, first beginning to worship in the colonnade of Solomon. In so doing they located themselves in these words of Jesus. What kind of church would we be or become more so if we grounded ourselves in Jesus' words in vs. 27-28 in particular?