

## **Correct Your Misunderstandings”**

John 10:31-42

Hello friend, I'm J. Mark Horst, your host and I welcome you to *Hope for Today*. The program you're listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope. We're an international Gospel media ministry. Each week our Bible teaching broadcasts circle the globe in English and 22 other major languages. Tens of thousands tune in each week for spiritual nourishment and blessing.

Like this listener in India. He heard our Hindi language program. He wrote, "Six months back when I was in my friend's house, I got an opportunity to listen to your program 'Asha Deep.' (That translates into English as "Light of Hope.") After that day I have become a regular listener to your radio program. Messages and teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ are very wonderful and knowledgeable. God has opened my eyes. I came to know that He has washed my all sins through the holy blood of His only Son. But my family members do not support me. They do not believe in Jesus and always oppose me. I feel it is very difficult to obey the word of Jesus and follow Him. I want to grow spiritually."

Isn't that a wonderful testimony? Praise God, another lost sheep has been rescued by the Good Shepherd! At Heralds of Hope we count it a privilege to be a tool God can use to share His love with so many people. And we're glad we can share it with you!

Having a correct understanding of who Jesus is requires getting our information from the proper source. And on this episode of *Hope for Today* Dr. Yoder will show us how the wrong information can lead to serious misunderstandings. If you've been tuning in regularly to *Hope for Today*, you know that we're studying from John's Gospel. Our Bible teacher for this series is the late Dr. J. Otis Yoder, founder, and president of Heralds of Hope. Here he is with today's teaching; "Correct Your Misunderstandings." And our Scripture portion is John 10:31 to 42.

What causes misunderstandings? There are several causes. One may be the lack of information, not having all the facts together. Or it may be inability to communicate, that is, not able to tell it like it really is.

There may be another cause for misunderstanding, that of not hearing correctly. I may say a word that you do not quite understand. If you do not understand what I am saying then you may misunderstand what I mean.

How can misunderstanding be corrected? It is quite simple. Gather all the information that you can, sift the facts from the falsehoods, and listen carefully so as to understand.

I believe among the subjects most frequently misunderstood is the nature and mission of Jesus of Nazareth. On that subject, though, hangs the most serious of life's outcomes.

My dear friend, it is very important that you understand as well as possible who Jesus of Nazareth is and what His mission is. From John 10:31-42 I want to show you how Jesus helps you to CORRECT YOUR MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

- 31 *Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.*
- 32 *Jesus answered them, Many good works have I showed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?*
- 33 *The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God*
- 34 *Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?*
- 35 *If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;*
- 36 *Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?*
- 37 *If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.*
- 38 *But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.*
- 39 *Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,*
- 40 *And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.*
- 41 *And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.*
- 42 *And many believed on him there.*

Here in these verses we have the DETAILS which clear up most misunderstandings about the person and work of Jesus.

### **The Condemnation.**

They were about to render an execution without trial. It's true, Moses' law required the execution of a heretic, but not without a hearing. He was to be brought before the elders, and

people were to testify of his unsound faith, and after careful examination, then, they were to stone or execute the person.

So, Jesus protested. He said, “Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?” Their reply is very significant, my friend, because they said, “For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.”

You see, there is one of the misunderstandings that they had because it was not really that at all. They lacked information. One cause for misunderstanding is lack of information. And they lacked information. They thought that Jesus, being a man, was trying to be God. But it’s the other way around. Here was God being man and they were not understanding this at all. So they sought to condemn Him and stone Him without a trial.

Here is the second detail which helps to clear our understanding of Jesus:

#### **The Vindication.**

Jesus made an appeal to the Word of God. He said there was a Scripture where people were called gods. Here is the exact quote: “I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.” I found it located in Psalm 82:6. The people were called gods. They were mortal, yet they were called the children of God.

Now Jesus raised a very important question on that and vindicated Himself because He said, “Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?”

A part of the problem was that they did not understand the nature of this miracle of God becoming man. I am trying to point out to you that Jesus vindicated His position and His statement, “I and the Father are one.” Because this was the miracle of God becoming man. And they misunderstood that.

Do you understand it? They needed to accept His statement and so must you. He is the sanctified sent One and is indeed the Son of God.

#### The third detail follows: **The Verification.**

The record continues that Jesus left that part of the country and went over beyond the Jordan where John had been baptizing and many of the people came unto Him and many believed on Him.

He found a place where He would not be harassed and where they would not be threatening to stone Him, in the place where John the Baptist had been ministering and most likely where John the Baptist had baptized Jesus. There He found a kind of resort or retreat.

Many of the people came unto Him and from them the response was that everything that John the Baptist said about this man is coming true. John the Baptist performed no miracles, but his prophecies regarding this man are coming true. And many believed on Him there.

When you take it all together, my friend, the evidence is convincing. The verification is absolutely established. How can you still hesitate when many today are believing. Letters come from listeners in many countries telling us, "I am a believer".

Why don't you take that step, too, and become a believer? If you have any misunderstandings about Jesus, consider with care these details: the condemnation without a trial; the vindication and the appeal to God's Word; the verification that many believed on Him. Surely these can be helpful to you. They are details that give us certainty of the truth.

Correct your misunderstanding, my friend, and learn to know who Jesus is by accepting Him, the Son of God, as your personal Savior.

My friend, I hope this teaching has blessed you. Do you have misunderstandings about who Jesus is? If you have questions about Him, write to us here at *Hope for Today*. We will take your questions to God's Word and find answers for you. It is very important for you to know the truth about Jesus.

The quickest way for you to contact us is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). That e-mail address is [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, "Correct Your Misunderstandings." We'd be happy to send one to you.

And when you contact us, you can request our newest publication, *Hope Herald*. It is a study guide that follows these radio programs and will help you learn more about what we are studying from John's Gospel. So, ask for your free copy of *Hope Herald* today.

Here's the contact information again. The quickest way to reach us is by at this address; [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember; you can request a free copy of this teaching, "Correct Your Misunderstandings." It's

available in print or on an audio CD. And you can also request a free copy of our newest publication, *Hope Herald*. It will help you gain more value from our study in John.

Now, I urge you to tune in next week as Dr. Yoder continues our study from John's Gospel with an important message titled "Overcoming Trouble." You won't want to miss it. And until then, I urge you to keep looking for that blessed HOPE.