Growing Christians
MINISTRIES

Talks for Growing Christians - Snapshot
Snapshots use the NLT for easier reading.
The original Talks use the NKJV.

John 10:31-42

Once again, the people picked up stones to kill him. **³²** Jesus said, "At my Father's direction I have done many good works. For which one are you going to stone me?"
³³ They replied, "We're stoning you not for any good work, but for blasphemy! You, a mere man, claim to be God."
³⁴ Jesus replied, "It is written in your own Scriptures that God said to certain leaders of the people, 'I say, you are gods!' **³⁵** And you know that the Scriptures cannot be altered. So if those people who received God's message were called 'gods,' **³⁶** why do you call it blasphemy when I say, 'I am the Son of God'? After all, the Father set me apart and sent me into the world. **³⁷** Don't believe me unless I carry out my Father's work. **³⁸** But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father."
³⁹ Once again they tried to arrest him, but he got away and left them. **⁴⁰** He went beyond the Jordan River near the place where John was first baptizing and stayed there awhile. **⁴¹** And many followed him. "John didn't perform miraculous signs," they remarked to one another, "but everything he said about this man has come true." **⁴²** And many who were there believed in Jesus.

Background

In verse 31, the Jews again tried to stone Jesus, as they had earlier in John 8:58-59. They were not upset by His moral teachings, but by His claim to be God. They saw this as blasphemy, deserving of death under Jewish law (Leviticus 24). In verses 34-36, Jesus used a point from the Law to calm the crowd, quoting Psalm 82:6: *"I say, you are gods."* In its original context, the verse referred to human judges. Jesus argued that if these judges were called "gods," it was not blasphemy for Him to call Himself the Son of God.

Jesus then left Jerusalem and went to Perea, beyond the Jordan, where John had first baptized. Many believed in Him there, for John the Baptist had earlier prepared their hearts to receive Christ (v42).

Teaching Points

1. The Lord Jesus believed in the inerrancy of Scripture.

The "inerrancy of Scripture" means the Bible contains no errors. It was inspired by the Holy Spirit, who does not make mistakes. Jesus affirms this in John 10:35, saying, *"The Scriptures*

cannot be altered," meaning you cannot just pick and choose parts of Scripture to believe because **all** of it is true.

Some people argue that the Bible has errors in non-moral areas like history or science, but this undermines core truths like the resurrection or creation. While the Bible isn't primarily a science or history book, it remains true when it addresses these topics.

2. The Lord Jesus used common sense and avoided danger.

In verses 39-40, Jesus escaped the Jews' attempt to seize Him because His time had not yet come. He wisely avoided danger, as He did earlier in John 8:59. We should follow His example by using common sense to avoid harm when possible. While some may be called to face danger or martyrdom, it's not right to seek it out unnecessarily. For instance, foreign missionaries may wisely leave if the region where they serve becomes too dangerous. Like Jesus, we should balance our mission with practical safety.

Application

1. There's more than one biblical answer you can give the religious critic.

When the Jews accused Jesus of claiming to be God, He could have answered a number of ways, like discussing Messianic predictions about His lineage and birthplace. Instead, He chose to quote Psalm 82:6. This unexpected response teaches us that there are multiple biblical ways to address religious critics. Sometimes, an overly zealous critic only needs a Scripture verse, not a long discussion. However, when using the approach Jesus demonstrated, you must be genuinely spiritual—avoiding rebellious actions or attitudes that need correction. It's also important to answer with respect, not sarcastically or defensively.