

The Gospel of John

10:1-6

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.

As with this study and all bible studies, remember to pray before you start.

The last three weeks we studied about the blind man that Jesus healed. In the last study I gave my personal testimony, something that I have wanted to do for some time now. I believe that through this many will see the grace of God in my life and it will encourage them to return to, or walk with the Lord.

I give all the glory to the Lord for bringing me out of what He has and the things He is now doing in my life. This website is a testimony in itself of the grace of God in one man's life.

This week we are starting a new chapter, chapter ten, but it's not the end of the story we have been reading about in chapter nine. In fact, we must actually start with the last two verses of chapter nine, which are.

✎ **John 9:40-41** *Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.*

This was after the blind man, whom Jesus has healed, finally found Jesus as Jesus revealed to him that He was the Son of God.

Of course the Pharisees were there and wanted to get into the conversation, and the end of chapter nine is the start of that conversation, but not the end of it, because it continues in chapter ten, which we will start with this week.

✎ **John 10:1-6** *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.*

So what is Jesus talking about here, is what the Pharisees were wondering.

The sheepfold is the body of Jesus Christ or God's family. There are many then and even now who try to enter into heaven by their own means, and they also try to get others to enter that same way. Some even will try to draw people out of the church to get them into their false religion.

But Jesus says,

† **John 14:6** *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

If anyone tells you there is another way to get into heaven, turn and run from them. Some will say you have to work your way into heaven, some even say you must be baptized, others say you must speak in tongues as verification of your salvation. There are many false ways that the world and false religions say you can get to heaven. But as we just read straight from the mouth of Jesus, He is the only way to the Father. Jesus also says,

† **Luke 21:8** *And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them."*

So how do we know when there is a false teaching being brought to us?

✂ *The sheep follow him, for they know his voice.*

Unless you are reading the bible everyday, you cannot hear God's voice. Now this is not an audible voice, but rather knowing the word of God. So when someone comes in or tells you of some other way to heaven, you know they are not speaking from God's word.

Think about a shepherd for a moment. He may be out there with the sheep for days at a time, no one but him and the sheep. So he spends time with the sheep talking to them and seeing to their needs and protecting them. He also leads them to water and green pastures where they can eat. Since the sheep spend so much time with the shepherd they know what his voice sounds like.

It's also like a newborn baby, they hear the mother and fathers voice even in the womb. When they come out they know their voices and will cling to the ones who voices they know. Even growing up, this baby hears the parents voice all the time as they talk to the baby. But as soon as the baby is handed to a stranger they start to cry, because they hear an unfamiliar voice.

So they question would be, who are you spending your time with? Whose voice are you listening to? If you spend hours in front of the TV, that is what you are going to listen to, and we know what sort of things the TV teaches us.

What about the radio, do you spend hours with the radio on, being tuned into secular music or talk shows? We know what the music of the world tells us, but even these talk shows are constantly giving ungodly advice to its listeners.

Maybe you're not into TV or radio. Maybe you are a reader. So what are you reading? It could be that none of these apply to you, but maybe there are other things that take up your time, like sports or clubs or sometimes even a hobby can consume you.

Not that any of these are bad, but are you spending hours with them and only minutes with the Lord?

It's no wonder we struggle when we give our time to the Lord and not the things of this world. We as Christians have gotten caught up in the world's mentality that recreation and fun are a very important part of life, and if you are not spending as much time on these things you will go crazy.

Once again they are ok in moderation, but they should not consume us. God instructed us to rest one day a week from work. But how many days a week are you spending on this rest that we call recreation?

We are called to have our normal jobs to provide for our families and ourselves, but we are also called to share the gospel and spend time with the Lord. Does your recreation hinder you from doing these things?

Christians are not boring and we do have fun. For me studying God's word is fun. This is not a job for me, sure it's a ministry, and I enjoy it. Also as a musician I love playing music to the Lord. Once again it's serving the Lord and I have fun at it. Maybe you can do neither. But the Lord has gifted us all to do things, and we need to do them with joy and have fun with them. If you are not enjoying the work or ministry you are doing, maybe you are doing the wrong thing? Something you should pray about.

But the truth is, whatever consumes your time is what you are going to listen to and even follow after. As Christians we should be spending time with the Lord everyday, reading His word, listening to teachings and going to church or bible studies. Only when we stop listening to the things of this world will we be able to hear the voice of our Savior!

✚ To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

Notice Jesus says, "*leads them out*" meaning the Lord will lead us out of our comfort zone in the church into the world to do the work He wants us to do.

Jesus said,

✚ Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

He didn't say go into the church and preach the gospel, but into the world. It's funny how we tend to think that we cannot serve unless it's in the church. Sure there are mission fields where those who are gifted will go into other countries and share the gospel. But like me, maybe you are not a missionary. The world is right there in your home, on your street, in your neighborhood, at your job, in the store or wherever the Lord leads you to go or wherever He has put you.

Sometimes we feel like we are alone, like we are the only Christian in our family or at work, but you are not alone. Notice Jesus said, ***“He goes before them”*** Meaning that Jesus will go and prepare the way for you to go, wherever He wants you to go, and He prepared that way on the cross.

† **Luke 9:23** *Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*

Jesus went to the cross so that we can go to heaven. He prepared that way for us to get there. So who are you taking with you?
You've heard it here before, but I will say it again. There is one thing better than going to heaven and that's taking someone with you. There's also one thing worse than going to hell, and that's taking someone with you.
So where are you going and who are you taking with you?

Jesus led us by example to the cross. By the cross Jesus denied Himself so that we could go to heaven to be with the Father. By this example we follow after Jesus as we also are going to heaven as we go His way.
But are you really denying yourself so others can go to heaven? What has consumed your life so much that it is more important than bringing others to the kingdom of God? TV, radio, books, movies, sports, clubs, your job, your family, your lifestyle, what really is so important that you need to do that overrides the fact that those around you are going to hell, but this thing or things are more important to you?

† **Matt 10:37-39** *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.*

The world gives us a me, me, me attitude, and we say we don't give into it, but aren't we really as we find self and our leisure time more important than others?

✎ *Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.*

The Pharisees had no idea what Jesus was talking about. They thought that they were right and Jesus and everyone else were wrong. They thought they had an "in" with God because they could memorize scripture and shoved their lifestyle down the throats of others. If they wouldn't listen to them or went against what they said, then get rid of them was their attitude, which we read about in chapter nine.

✎ *Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains."*

But Jesus told them that they were blind because they thought that they were so righteous in their ways.

† **Luke 6:39-40** *And He spoke a parable to them: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher."*

When you listen to man, you will die like man; when you listen to Jesus you will live like Jesus.

Next week we will continue on with this conversation between Jesus and the Pharisees (again).

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may you share Jesus with others so that they to can be a part of His flock also!