

The Gospel of John

10:7-21

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.

✠ **John 10:7-21** *Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father." Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. And many of them said, "He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?" Others said, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"*

Last week we read of the parable that Jesus spoke of concerning the sheep and the shepherd. Even though the Jews were very familiar with the job of a shepherd, they didn't understand what Jesus was talking about.

Remember what Jesus told Nicodemus?

✠ **John 3:12** *If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?*

Jesus told them of earthly things to explain the ways of God or heavenly things, but still they didn't get it. So this week Jesus explains what He is talking about in even more detail.

✠ *Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep*

did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

First Jesus explains that He is the way into the sheepfold, or the way to heaven. Jesus tells us over and over again throughout the bible that He is the only way to heaven or the Father.

In the Old Testament you can read of many false prophets who proclaimed peace to the children of Israel. But Israel was living in sin, and God wanted to deliver them from their sins. But these false prophets turned the people from the truth of God's word and caused them to believe a lie and continue in their sins. These false prophets had no intentions of God's people being saved or even being helped by God. Satan wants them all destroyed because he hates them, because they are God's people.

† ***Jer 14:14 And the LORD said to me, "The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.***

† ***Ezek 22:23-31 (NLT) Again a message came to me from the LORD: "Son of man, give the people of Israel this message: In the day of my indignation, you will become like an uncleared wilderness or a desert without rain. Your princes plot conspiracies just as lions stalk their prey. They devour innocent people, seizing treasures and extorting wealth. They increase the number of widows in the land. Your priests have violated my laws and defiled my holy things. To them there is no difference between what is holy and what is not. And they do not teach my people the difference between what is ceremonially clean and unclean. They disregard my Sabbath days so that my holy name is greatly dishonored among them. Your leaders are like wolves, who tear apart their victims. They actually destroy people's lives for profit! And your prophets announce false visions and speak false messages. They say, 'My message is from the Sovereign LORD,' when the LORD hasn't spoken a single word to them. They repair cracked walls with whitewash! Even common people oppress the poor, rob the needy, and deprive foreigners of justice.***

"I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn't have to destroy the land, but I found no one. So now I will pour out my fury on them, consuming them in the fire of my anger. I will heap on them the full penalty for all their sins, says the Sovereign LORD."

But it's still the same way today. False religions and cults are everywhere. They claim to know God and even Jesus, but they preach and teach a false God and Jesus. They teach a false hope or no hope at all.

They claim you can enter heaven by some other means than Jesus, or that you can do it on your own without Jesus.

Some claim that we are gods, so we don't need Jesus.

Some claim that you will have your own heaven or place in heaven that you will rule over.

Some even claim for the men that they will have many virgins to see to their needs after you die.

Some say there is no hell, or that you won't go there, only those Christians will go there. Even as Christians we are so concerned with self and family that we forget or overlook the poor and those in real need.

† *Even common people oppress the poor, rob the needy, and deprive foreigners of justice.*

So many false teachings, and so many more people who believe in them.

If it's not in the bible, then it's not from God! No matter what anyone says.

Are you trusting your salvation and eternity on what a man tells you, or what God says in His word?

I've said it before, and I will say it again over and over, check out everything you are taught including here in these studies. Does it match up to what the bible says? If not, then get away from it.

If anything I teach here is not from the bible and totally wrong, please let me know so that I may correct it or show you in the bible what the teaching is based upon.

✚ *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

Many of these false religions and teachers are in it for the money.

They prey upon people who are going through problems asking for your money, saying that God wants you to give to them, and after you do, then He will bless you.

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They even prey upon the old widows who can barely make it each month, but they don't care. They are comfortable in their big houses and fancy cars and recognition giving no thought for those who are really in need.

I like what Paul said:

† *2 Thess 3:7-9 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.*

Paul worked and preached both, not asking from anyone to pay his way in the ministry.

Yes, other churches did support him, but he never begged for money.

Don't let anyone fool you into thinking that you HAVE to pay his or her way. If God wants them in the ministry, He will supply for it.

If you are being fed (spiritually) in a ministry, then support it.

A real ministry will not beg for money or give you a story of how they will be shut down if you don't give to them. They play upon your feelings to get what they want from you. They will even send you things in the mail if you send them money.

Do you give to a ministry because of the little toys they provide each month, or are you giving because you are taught God's word? They call these things "love gifts". Love is not giving so you can get something back. Love is giving whether you get back or not. So support the ministries that minister to you and feed you spiritually. Don't support the ones who beg, play upon your emotions, or offer you some type of love gift in return.

I read nowhere in the Old or New Testament where God said to bring your offering and you will receive a cool magnet to place on your refrigerator.

✎ ***I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.***

A shepherd is one who is with the sheep all the time, whereas a hireling is only a servant to help the shepherd.

You can think of it as a parent with their children. The parents are with the children all the time. They know everything about the children, their likes and dislikes, they know when their baby is hungry, or has a dirty diaper or is just tired, even though the baby cannot speak. They can tell by the cries of the baby and the way the baby is acting. Even though the children will mess up, the parents love their children and the parents would give their life for their children.

On the other hand, a baby sister knows very little about the child and when push comes to shove, the baby sitter would not give his or her life for the child.

Jesus knows everything about us; after all, He created us and is with us all the time (Yes, He even sees you when you are sinning). And even though we mess up (and Jesus knew we would) He was still willing to die for us, just as a shepherd would for their sheep.

You see, a shepherd was more than just a caretaker of the sheep, but was also their protector whenever harm would come their way. It reminds me of what King David said as a young boy.

† ***1 Sam 17:34-37 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw***

of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

Isn't it good to know that we have a Good Shepherd (Jesus) with God on His side!

✚ *I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.*

I like the way the NLT puts verse 14.

✚ **John 10:14 (NLT)** *I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me.*

Jesus knows you if you are a believer in Him.

The word "known" means: *to know, understand, perceive, have knowledge of.*

It is the same word used for the way Jesus knows us in verse 14, and the same way God knows Jesus in verse 15.

We know Jesus had an ultimate, right-on, intimate relationship with God the Father. This is the same relationship Jesus says He has with you and me as believers. Jesus knows everything about you.

Did you notice the word "understand" in the definition of "known"?

There is always some time in our lives that we think that no one understands what we are going through. But Jesus does!

"No one likes me or everyone seems to reject me." How many people really liked Jesus when He was here, in fact even the disciples left Him in His greatest hour of need.

"I have no money to pay my taxes or to even buy food." Didn't Jesus tell Peter to go fishing to pay their taxes? Did Jesus have a job or a home to live in, yet the Father supplied all His needs.

✚ **Matt 17:25-27** *He said, "Yes." And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?" Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you."*

"I am struggling big time with sin right now." Have you been tempted for forty days and night by satan himself?

✚ **Luke 4:1-2** *Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty*

days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

"Sometimes I feel like God has forgotten about me." It's possible that you have forgotten about God and Who He is. Even Jesus felt this was when He was on the cross.

† **Matt 27:46** *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"*

God did not forget about Jesus on the cross, and Jesus knew this by His final words before He died.

† **Luke 23:46** *And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last.*

Jesus knew that God had not forgotten about Him, but for the first time in all eternity God and Jesus were separated because of your sins and mine, which Jesus bore on the cross.

Whatever your situation is, Jesus knows just what you are going through, because He went through the same thing Himself.

† **Heb 2:17-18 (NLT)** *Therefore, it was necessary for Jesus to be in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. He then could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. Since he himself has gone through suffering and temptation, he is able to help us when we are being tempted.*

So don't look down on Jesus or God, but rather:

† **Psalms 5:3** *My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up.*

† **Luke 21:28** *"Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."*

Let the Lord hear your voice and look up to Him!

☩ *And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.*

We as non-Jews are those other sheep, but in the end we will all be one family in God.

† **Gal 3:26-29** *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female;*

for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

✠ Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

Peter said on the day of Pentecost.

✠ Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Even Pilate said to Jesus:

✠ John 19:10 Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?"

But Jesus answered:

✠ John 19:11 Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

No one forced Jesus to go to the cross; no one crucified Jesus without Him allowing it.

✠ Matt 26:53-54 "Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"

The truth is that Jesus did this for you because He loves you, even though you may have rejected Him for all these years. How long will you reject Jesus' love for you? Today is the day for you to accept Jesus' love, by believing in what Jesus did on the cross for you, and repenting or turning from your sins.

All you have to do is pray a prayer to Jesus telling Him in your own words that you believe that He died on the cross for all your sins and rose from the dead on the third day. Tell Jesus you are tired of your sins and want to turn (repent) from them. Believe it in your heart and you will be saved.

✠ Romans 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Maybe you are not ready; maybe you have more questions like, “*What gives Jesus the right to do this. I never asked Him to?*”

The answer is in verse 18.

✠ ***This command I have received from My Father.***

You don’t ask someone to love you, they just do. I didn’t ask my children or parents to love me. They just do. I never asked Jesus to love me or die for me, but He did anyway. I still don’t fully understand how Jesus could love someone like me and die for me. But then we are not told to understand it, just believe it!

I encourage those of you who may have questions to please e-mail me or go talk to a pastor or elder in the church. After all, your eternity is at stake here!

Finally, the religious leaders are confused (again) and start arguing amongst themselves about what Jesus just said.

✠ ***Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. And many of them said, "He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?" Others said, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"***

The world thinks we are mad or have fallen off the deep end as Christians because we believe in Jesus and tell others about Him. We live a different lifestyle then the world does and they just don’t understand it.

Jesus’ words at the end of chapter 9 are so true, even for today.

✠ ***John 9:41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains."***

The world does not want to call it sin, but would rather call it a disease, or a lifestyle or even fun. They are so blind to the truth of the life they are living, and they think we have gone mad!

That’s it for this week. Next week, we will finish up chapter 10.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may you rejoice that you are a part of His sheepfold!