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Study on
The Book of John
Part 11

Summary: Jesus teaches his disciples how to love on those in which we come in contact. In his interaction with a blind man, he models for them and for us how we should seek to not only receive healing for ourselves, but to care enough to provide wholeness and belonging to all. Although the disciples see this man as a theological puzzle, Jesus wanted them to instead see him operate in a touching compassion which focused on the purpose of his sin, not the cause of it. When we decide to live in the mindset of miracles, we will see the hand of the Father manifested in our lives. As a result of the interaction with Jesus on the Sabbath, this blind man has to face the spirit of Religion which always fights against the freedom Jesus came to bring into the world. The one who couldn't see, gains his sight, and the ones who claimed to see, reveal that they are the ones who are truly blind.

Introduction:

The Pharisees have revealed themselves to be harmful and false shepherds to the people of Israel. In this tenth chapter of John, Jesus claims that He alone is the gateway to the Father. He brings true spiritual light and life to all who are seeking. In order for us to receive the Father's love, we must come through the gate he provided and realize that any other person who claims the contrary are thieves and robbers.

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Memorization Scripture:

John 10:9-10 “I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

John 10:1-42

- 1. Who is Jesus talking to at the end of John 9, and how does that flow into John 10?**

- 2. Why do you think the Bible so often compares human beings to sheep?**

- 3. (Vs. 1)** Jesus begins to speak about sheep and sheep pens.

a. The Pharisees in Chapter 9 show they are false and harmful shepherds.

i. Didn't rejoice in the miracle of the blind man.

ii. Instead of welcoming him into the fold, they strip him of his membership of the synagogue.

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- iii. They interrogate him and rob him of his dignity.
 - b. Jesus makes it clear that the Pharisees are the spiritually blinded ones.
 - i. They failed to see all attempts to experience true spiritual light and life that seek to bypass Jesus are false and harmful.
 - c. Many deceive people into thinking they can become a child of God without believing in Jesus.
4. (Vs. 4) Jesus states that His followers will follow Him because they know His voice.
- a. Do you recognize the unique way in which Jesus addresses you?
 - b. We are adopted children of God and Jesus is the son by nature. We must KNOW our big brother's voice.
 - c. Jesus' voice will always sound like what the Father would say.
5. (Vs. 9) Here is another "I am" statement made by Jesus. I am the gate. In other translations, He calls himself the door. **Ch. 6 bread of life (after the fishes and loaves miracle), ch. 8 light of the world (at the candelabra in the women's court)**
- a. He is the one through whom we find salvation for our souls. He is the entrance, the portal, and the gateway to the presence of God.
 - b. What does this gate represent?
 - i. The gate, not a gate. This is Jesus' exclusive claim.
 - ii. He is the door to another world. A real world of salvation and abundant life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

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- iii. Door opens up to pastures, which are open hills. It is not a place of restriction. It is a spacious place of the Father's love.
6. (Vs. 10) Once an angel in Heaven, Lucifer rebelled against the Father's love and became the original and ultimate orphan. Since then, he has been trying to destroy what is precious to the Father.
- a. He is hard at work trying to bring human beings into the same spiritual state that he experiences- the state of spiritual fatherlessness.
 - b. Desperately tries to keep unbelievers from coming to Jesus.
 - c. Desperately tries to keep believers from enjoying the full life that comes from knowing God as Abba, Daddy, Papa, Dad and Father.
 - d. We don't ignore the enemy, but we also don't focus on him.
7. (Vs. 11) Jesus refers to himself as the good shepherd.
- a. It is the Greek word *Kalos*. **Shepherds in ancient world were in constant danger from all sorts of threats, not the least the wolves and robbers that stalked the sheep. Sometimes would lose their lives defending the safety of their sheep whenever that happened, they had done some thing Kalos.**
 - i. Efficient, hardworking, capable and faithful- Jesus puts the concerns of his sheep first.
 - ii. Noble, kind, beautiful and attractive- he is prepared to sacrifice everything.
 - b. Israel had known so many bad shepherds. It had been led astray and exploited by selfish rather than selfless leaders.
 - i. Ezekiel 34:7-10 God condemns those who have cared for themselves rather than their flocks.

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- ii. Ezekiel 34:11-16 He promises to come as a shepherd himself and look after His sheep in person. Jesus is the fulfillment of this promise.
8. (Vs. 12-13) **the orphan heart condition (John 8:16) is of someone who wasn't brought up by a loving faithful father. Poverty (the mentality of hoards as much as possible b/c of fear that there's never gonna be enough) Greed (the desire to accumulate money and possessions in hope that having more will take away the pain within the soul)** The shepherd behaves like a son. The hired hand behaves like an orphan.
- a. How do their behaviors differ?
 - i. Shepherd puts the lives of the sheep before his own and is willing to sacrifice his security and indeed his life for his sheep.
 - ii. Hired hand will abandon the sheep and run away.
 - iii. Shepherd is doing what he does because he loves the sheep.
 - iv. Hired hand is doing what he does because he is being paid to do so.
 - v. Shepherd is open-handed and openhearted, trusting and faithful.
 - vi. Hired hand is tight-fisted, cold-hearted, mistrustful and fearful.
 - b. When we are called to any kind of leadership role we can either behave like a son or an orphan, like a shepherd or a hired hand. When wolves start to growl, what is your response? Fight or flight?
9. (Vs. 17-18) Jesus lived in a constant state of intimacy with his Father and knew from his baptism onwards that the Father was delighted in him.

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- a. The Father's love was based on his position as the Father's son.
 - b. We too must rest in our position as adopted sons and daughters. in this position, all striving ceases and fears are washed away.
 - c. Does that mean we can do whatever we like? No, just like Jesus we are called to a life of obedience.
 - i. Having experienced Abba's pleasure, we long to please him through our obedience.
 - d. Jesus knows that he is loved unconditionally by His Father, but also knows that his obedience caused His Father to love him all the more.
 - i. Jesus had choices, just as we do. And he chose the Father's will, to voluntarily lay down his life and then take it up again.
He chose to embrace the Cross and the empty tomb. He said yes to the Father.
 - e. Knowing the extravagant affirmation of the Father's love should lead us to become obedient to the Father's commands.
- 10. (Vs. 27-28)** There are four great benefits of being a follower of Jesus.
- a. Jesus knows us. he doesn't just know about us.
 - b. Jesus gives us eternal life. Knowing Jesus personally leads to great rewards. A quality of life that is superabundant and everlasting.
 - c. We will never perish. Even though we will die physically, we will not perish spiritually.
 - d. No one can snatch us out of his hand. There is no power of hell or force on earth that can ever remove us from the protective and omnipotent hand of the Son of God.

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11. (Vs. 29) Jesus is surrounded by antagonistic religious accusers and his response to all their perverse interrogations is to state quite simply that His Abba is greater than all.

- a. When we are facing the world, the devil or our flesh, we have a choice.
 - i. React in our flesh, complain about our situation and allow it to weigh us down and defeat us.
 - ii. Respond like Jesus, in the spirit and declare that you've got a bigger, greater and mightier God. *Circumstances are like mattresses that you are supposed to be on top of. In the midst of the demonic onslaught of interrogation and intimidation, Jesus made a wonderful declaration of faith. My daddy is greater, bigger, stronger...*

12. (Vs. 30) Jesus is revealing that if you want him, then you are going to have to have the Father too. *Women who grew up with a dad who had a very demanding job, so her only childhood memory was of her mom telling her to be quiet as to not wake him up. Grew up feeling he was not there for her. Became an adult and gave her heart to Jesus. Easy to relate to him as her savior, but not God as Father. God was the face of her dad, a sleeping dad who was too tired to be interested- as a Father whom she was not to bother...until she read verse 30.*

- a. God is a Father who is always awake, always interested, always available, and always engaged.
- b. What kind of oneness is Jesus referring to?
 - i. In their doings (John 5:19). They do the same thing.
 - ii. In their being. He is proclaiming his divinity. There is no difference between them.

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1. Two separate persons, yet one in substance and being.
The word with God (separate) and at the same time was God (same)
2. Two separate personalities, yet one in nature.

13. (Vs. 36) Jesus lets his accusers know that from the Father's perspective, he is one of a kind.

- a. The word "set apart" is the Greek verb *hagiazō*, which can be translated as "hallowed" or "sanctified".
- b. He has been uniquely consecrated to perform a task on the earth. He is a man on a mission- a mission that is divine in origin and cosmic in impact.
- c. He is the ambassador from heaven who alone has come to fulfill the Father's purpose for his life.
- d. Our lives are not an accident, and we have been consecrated by the Father to fulfill a task and responsibility that no one else has.
- e. Let's not miss our destiny. Let's seize it.

14. (Vs. 36) There are 3 questions everyone wants answered. Who am I? where am I from? Where am I going?

- a. Jesus answers all three- he has come from his Father in Heaven; his destiny is to fulfill the work the Father has given him on Earth and his identity is simply that he is the Father's son.
- b. Many of us are tempted to derive our sense of who we are from what we do. Jesus' identity was derived from his position, not from his performance.

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- c. Let go of the old, false self that is tied up with status, task and role. Take hold of your new true self as a son or daughter of the King.
- 15. (Vs. 39)** One of the most telling characteristics of Jesus in John's gospel is his dramatic elusiveness.
 - a. Those who seek him will find him. (John 1:38)
 - b. Those who seek him for the wrong reasons will fail every time (John 7:30; 7:32; 7:44; 8:20)
 - c. Jesus escapes every time until the designated hour of his passion. His father in heaven protects and hides him until the pre-ordained moment when at last his enemies are allowed to catch up with him.
 - d. Our loving heavenly Abba is in sovereign control of our lives.
- 16. (Vs. 42)** Jesus moves away from the hostile environment of the city to a far more receptive people in the Countryside, near the River Jordan.
 - a. These crowds had heard John the Baptist preach about Jesus and now are hearing him for themselves.
 - b. The move of God was accelerated once Jesus got there.
 - c. Let's pray for this kind of Move of God today!