

Bible Study

Gods Word in Focus



Week Eighteen
Gospel of John
John 9 & 10

**"For judgment I have come into this world, that
those who do not see may see"
John 9:1-41**

What's worse: physical blindness or moral and spiritual darkness? Sin clouds the mind in darkness and closes the heart to God's love and truth.

Only in the light of God's truth can we see sin for what it really is, a rejection of God and opposition to his will. The Pharisees equated physical blindness and sickness with sin.

While the scriptures indicate that sin can make the body and mind sick as well as the soul, not all sickness, however is the result of sin. Sickness befalls us for a variety of reasons. Paul the Apostle reminds us that "in everything God works for good with those who love him" (Romans 8:28)

One of the most remarkable miracles of Jesus is the healing of the man who was blind from birth. Even the blind man, once cured, marveled and proclaimed that "never since the world began has it been heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind" (John 9:32). This miracle remarkably reveals the power and glory of God.

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly"

John 10:1-10

What can shepherding teach us about God and our relationship with him? At the end of each day the shepherd brought his sheep into shelter. They knew the voice of their shepherd and came at his beckoning.

The scriptures describe God as a shepherd who brings security and peace to his people. *The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore* (Psalm 120:8).

Even the leaders of God's people are called shepherds: *they shall lead them out and bring them in; that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep which have no shepherd* (Numbers 27:17).

Just as a shepherd kept watch over his sheep and protected them from danger, so Jesus stands watch over his people as the *Shepherd and Guardian of our souls* (1 Peter 2:25).

Do you know the peace and security of a life fully submitted to God?

“The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep”

John 10:11-21

Do you know the peace and security of the Good Shepherd who watches over his own? The Old Testament often speaks of God as shepherd of his people, Israel.

Jesus made three promises to his followers.

He promised them everlasting life. If they accept him and follow him, they will have the life of God in them.

Jesus also promised them a life that would know no end. Death would not be the end but the beginning; they would know the glory of indestructible life.

Jesus promised a life that was secure. Jesus said that nothing would snatch them out of his hand, not even sorrow and death, since he is everlasting life itself. Our lives are safe in his hands.

"My sheep hear My voice, neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand"

John 10:22-30

The Jewish Feast of the Dedication is also called the Festival of Lights or Hanakkuh. This feast was held in late December, near the time we celebrate Christmas. This is the time of year when the day is shortest and the night longest. Jesus used this occasion to declare that he is the true light of the world (John 8:12).

In his light we can see who God truly is and we can find the true path to heaven. Jesus also speaks of the tremendous trust he has in God his Father and the tremendous trust we ought to have in him, our Good Shepherd.

The security Jesus offers is an abiding relationship with the living God, and membership with his flock, the people of God. Jesus also promises the security of peace and protection from evil and the greatest harm that could befall us -- eternal destruction.

The Lord does not spare us from all trouble. In this life we will experience pain, suffering, sickness, and death. But through these the Lord will lead us to ultimate victory and safety in his everlasting home.

"I am the Son of God"

John 10:31-42

Why were the religious leaders so upset with Jesus that they wanted to kill him? They charged him with blasphemy because he claimed to be the Son of God and he made himself equal with God. The law of Moses laid down the death penalty for such a crime: "He who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him" (Lev. 24:16).

As they were picking up stones to hurl at Jesus, he met their attack with three arguments. The many good works that he did, such as healing the sick, raising the dead, and feeding the hungry -- demonstrated that they obviously came from God.

Jesus defended his right to call himself the Son of God with a quote from Psalm 82:6 ("I say, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you"). If scripture can speak like that of humans, why should Jesus not speak of himself like that?

Jesus then made two claims: He was *consecrated* by the Father to a special task and he was *sent into the world* to carry out his Father's mission. The scriptural understanding of consecration is to *make holy for God* – to be given over as a free-will offering and sacrifice for God. Jesus made himself a sin-offering for us, to ransom us from condemnation and slavery to sin.

He spoke of his Father consecrating him for this mission of salvation (John 10:36). Jesus challenged his opponents to *accept his works* if they could not *accept his words*. One can argue with words, but deeds are beyond argument.