

# God & Jesus Are One

Rev. Bruce VanDer Kolk

**WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL: MAY 9-14, 2022**

**JOHN 10:22-30 PSALM 23:1-6**

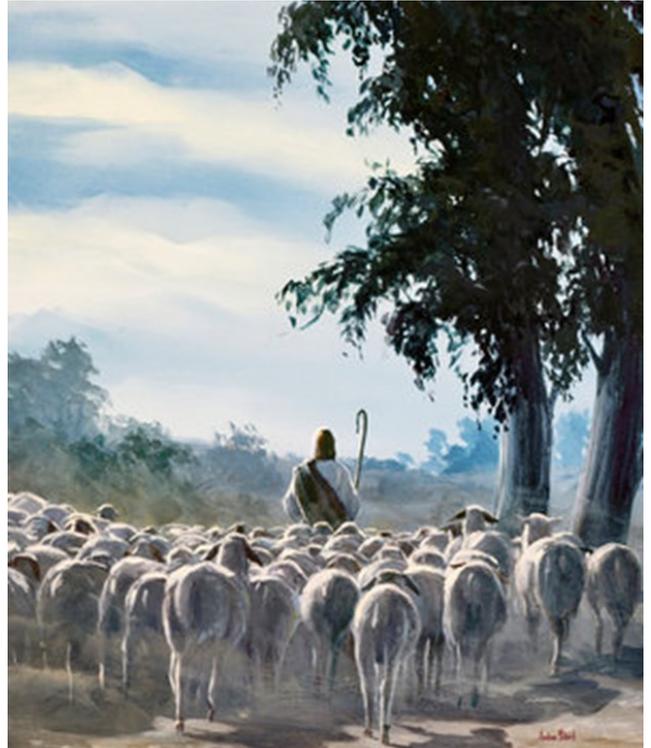
## **MONDAY - May 9, 2022**

**Psalm 23:1** The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

**John 10:22-24** It was now winter, and Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of Hanukkah, the Festival of Dedication. He was in the Temple, walking through the section known as Solomon's Colonnade. The people surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

**REFLECTION:** The Festival of Dedication message was for the people to remember and embrace the grace of God. They are to remember God's fatherly gentleness and forgiveness. Christ, God's Son, now appears in the temple to preach the Gospel message. It's a bold statement for people to say that God is their shepherd, but it is even more bold for Jesus to call God, His Father. This is what Jesus is teaching in John 10. God gently draws us to Himself so we may taste His fatherly sweetness, enjoy His peace, and bask in His security. Jesus is our true Messiah who draws us to the Father of Creation.

**PRAYER TIME:** *Lord Jesus, I yearn for you to be my shepherd. Help me to listen and respond to your words of love. Give me peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



## **TUESDAY - May 10, 2022**

**Psalm 23:2** He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.

**John 10:24** The people surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

**REFLECTION:** There is another group of people who surround Jesus on that day. They are the unbelievers who wish he might be killed by a mob or arrested by the Romans. They wanted Jesus dead. Although they pretend they are passionate about Jesus being the Redeemer, they are not. Unbelievers choose to remain in doubt because they are uncertain about the Word. These people shut their eyes to Christ and spread their doubt of darkness. They are leaving behind the clear love of the Gospel. Jesus' response is found in Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you, and your souls shall find rest."

**PRAYER TIME:** *Lord Jesus, once again I proclaim You are the Son of God. You have rescued me and I have found peace. I praise you Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

## **WEDNESDAY - May 11, 2022**

**Psalm 23:3** He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

**John 10:25** Jesus replied, "I have already told you, and you don't believe me. The proof is the work I do in my Father's name."

**REFLECTION:** Notice that Jesus does not conceal who He is. He is the Christ. He taught each day about His Lordship, yet only a few people were willing to accept Him. Most people were afraid and fearful of the religious authorities, others were very pious and filled with stubbornness and malice. Even though they have been taught from generations of rabbis, priests and prophets about the word and works of God, they are still dull in their hearing. Today people are maliciously resistant to God because they want to be. One never knows when the power of God's Holy Spirit will enlighten people. When the Spirit is set afloat it gives a person the capacity to embrace the love of God. It is the Spirit of God that does the work. That is why I dare them to be loved by God.

**PRAYER TIME:** *Gracious Father, renew my heart, mind, and soul today, with your strength. Continue to guide me along the right paths. Help me to be fearless in honoring your name. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

## **THURSDAY - May 12, 2022**

**Psalm 23:4** Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

**John 10:26-27** “But you don’t believe me because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

**REFLECTION:** Now we get to the meat of the matter. Those who are God’s children know what it means to walk in dark valleys. Many people do not listen to the Word of God and the Spirit, and remain in the dark. Jesus is clear, we must ask to be lifted up to the light of the Gospel. *Matthew 7:7* “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.” Some people do not hear the truth of God’s love because they desire to remain profane and desire to live unprincipled lives. Believers have surrendered and are governed by the hand of God’s grace. We must all lay aside the fierceness of our nature. As we do, we become more mellow and teachable. The people who are lost in the world of wretched darkness are not asking, and that is a shame. The beauty of God’s grace is everywhere, if they want to see it. Jesus is clear. Those with the gift of believing have a very special gift indeed.

**PRAYER TIME:** *Lord Jesus, when I rise in the morning, and lie down at night, You are with me. Thank you Lord for being by my side today and every day. You not only guide me, You protect me from making bad choices. Praise Your glorious name! In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

## **FRIDAY - May 13, 2022**

**Psalm 23:5** You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

**John 10:28-29** “I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father’s hand.”

**REFLECTION:** Think about the words stated in John 10:28, “We will never perish”. This fact is an immeasurable fruit of our faith. Christ secures our future by bringing us to faith and making us a sheep of his pasture. He is our faithful guardian who we can trust with our life. This new life is held in Jesus precious hands, and we are safely guarded by the power of His grace. This is certainly one of the most remarkable passages in the entire Bible. These are not foolish words. We are promised by Jesus Christ, who shows us we are the elect. We can be absolutely certain of our salvation through Him. *2 Timothy 1:12* *I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.*

**PRAYER TIME:** *Because of Your Son, O Sovereign God, You are preparing a place for me in heaven. You have anointed me with Your Spirit of truth, and have opened my heart with overflowing joy. My cup overflows with all the many blessings You have given me. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

## **SATURDAY - May 14, 2022**

**Psalm 23:6** Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

**John 10:30** “The Father and I are one.”

**REFLECTION:** Those around Jesus that day were filled with shouts of wicked slander when Jesus said, “The Father and I are one.” This message sends a shockwave through the crowd. They jeer back at Him and allege that He is a false prophet and demented man. What is so strange is that these same people have heard Jesus’ message many times, and saw with their own eyes that the power of God belonged to Jesus. They saw Him use his power for the greater good of all humankind. Why would anyone be against Jesus, and shout vile words at him? They are not His sheep. *Luke 11:23* “Anyone who isn’t with me opposes me, and anyone who isn’t working with me is actually working against me. People who are against Jesus turn their backs on true love. Jesus Christ is the same essence, ethos, and has the same nature, with God the Father. So if anyone denies Jesus, they deny God. Whatever Jesus does on earth, is confirmed by the power of the Father in heaven. Whatever we do in Jesus’ name we do from the grace of God.

**PRAYER TIME:** *O God, You are my God of goodness and unfailing love. I praise Your Holy Name for pursuing me. Your love has surrounded me all the days of my life. Now I have accepted You as my Savior. You have blessed me for now, and I will live in Your house forever. How can I thank You enough! In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*