

KNOCK, KNOCK, WHO'S THERE?

Psalm 23:1-6 KJV // John 10:1-10 ESV

MONDAY 5/1/23

Psalm 23:1-6 / 1-2 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

John 10:1-11 / 1-3 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

REFLECTION Anytime you hear Jesus say, "truly, truly," or "verily, verily," it means something very important is going to be taught. Jesus is warning Christians to be alert to leaders who will cause confusion about God's Kingdom. They will look like Christians and even talk like Christians but they are not reborn with the Spirit of God in them. They have the spirit of human initiative. These wolves in sheep's clothing do their best to divide God's chosen ones. Early in church history the degenerate Israelites pretended to be Christ's followers and tried to alter the Gospel message of Christ. Nothing is more alarming when I hear of ministers leading Jesus' flock away from the Gospel. The Doctrine of Christ is clear. Christ is the only pathway way to eternal life. We all need to be on guard against being deceived by counterfeit shepherds. Who are they and what are they like? Christ describes them as thieves and robbers who try to steal God's love from us.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I ask that you keep my thinking clear and my focus on you. Thank you for always looking out for me. In Jesus Name, Amen

TUESDAY 5/2/23

Psalm 23:1-6 / 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

John 10:1-11 / 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

REFLECTION When Jesus knocks on our hearts' doors He is calling us by name. Jesus is asking us to open up our lives to Him so we may be set free from the bondage of sin. This is an invitation to be one in Spirit with God. Some people think Jesus kicks the door in and causes chaos in the house. From my experience, Jesus is gentle and kind and invites us to come and see. To listen to His words of mercy, compassion and love for us. He invites us to follow Him and be united with Him in Spirit. When we respond to Jesus' voice it is a voice we can trust. This is made clear in the opening verse of John 1:1, "In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God." This is the eternal "logos", the wisdom of God. God's living voice has come in the flesh to earth. (Other times God's voice is heard in Bible include: John 5:25; Matt 3:17; 17:5; 2 Pet.1:17.) Each time we hear the Bible being read, each time we sit with God and read ourselves, His word has the potential to come alive in our heart and soul. Just hearing the voice of God humbles us. I think one reason people do not read the Bible is they do not want to hear what God has to say to them. But those who are true sheep of Christ anxiously acknowledge its truth and earnestly desire to obey it. When we do, life changes and we become a new person. Not only do we understand what is true about Christ, we receive it with warm affection. Each Sunday we are like sheep who assemble submissively at the voice of the shepherd.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus thank you for calling me by name and opening my mind to your Father and my God. Praise

WEDNESDAY 5/3/23

Psalm 23:1-6/4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

John 10:1-11/6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

REFLECTION I would imagine Jesus would have been frustrated with the Jews for not accepting Him. When people refuse to accept Him, it is a clear demonstration of their harden hearts toward God. It takes more than just healing a blind man for people to come to accept God's love. They ~~pragmatically~~ reject their human wisdom and reject the light of Christ. Especially today, people are exceedingly dull to hearing the voice of God. This could be partly due to not understanding what our message is about. We have laid an amazing foundation of wisdom and integrity for our society. This foundation surpasses human logic and brings the heavenly knowledge to us. The Bible is a book of relationship: God's relationship with us, and our relationship with each other.

PRAYER: Lord, who can you show me that I need to open your door to? May I be gentle and kind as you have been with me. In Jesus Name, Amen.



THURSDAY 5/4/23

Psalm 23:1-6/5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

John 10:1-11/7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

REFLECTION What does it mean when it says, "Jesus is the door"? He is the gateway to heaven. He is the roadway of righteousness and the pathway to glory. He has a steadfast love for us. He is the greatest phenomenon in the history of the world. He is the highway to holiness and the only road to true peace. He is the tollway of deliverance. His love is enough. His burden is light and His yoke is easy. When we open the door and invite Him in this is what we get. We become soaked in a spiritual doctrine that feeds our souls. 1 Corinthians 2:2, "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, by your grace, you have called me to open the door of my mind to the wonderment of your Son. You have me blessed beyond my understanding. I raise your Holy Son now and all the days of my life. In Jesus Name, Amen

FRIDAY 5/5/23

Psalm 23:1-6/6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

John 10:1-11/10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

REFLECTION This verse is one of my favorite verses in the Bible. Jesus is very clear. He pulls back the curtain of life and shows us the lies, the evil, the darkness in people's hearts. These thieves steal away goodness and replace it with division and confusion. These robbers are consumed with an arrogance bent on manipulating people's lives. Jesus destroys these pillagers by exposing the truth about their desires. Jesus declares boldly, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." In other words, He offers us freedom to love God our creator, love Him who sacrifices His life. Having an abundant life means we have the Holy Spirit opening our minds to the reality around us. He makes a home in our hearts giving us security and joy. This gift gives us the capacity to love others as we have been loved. The key to an abundant life is accepting the truth about our real self, and accepting how our sinful nature controls us. But through Christ, we are loved. So let us be on guard against the many false teachers who are insatiable to invent new ways to live with one another. These strange social experiments are not based on love, nor freedom but division, manipulation and control. There is a certain mad rush of thieves and wolves who want to destroy goodness, forgiveness and mercy. Christ warns us that false teachers, even if mild in manner, always carry about a deadly poison.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, when I open the door of my life to your goodness and mercy I begin to live a new secure life. Your grace now follows me all the days of my life. Praise your name for knocking and allowing me to walk into a holy eternity. In Jesus Name, Amen

SATURDAY 5/6/23

Psalm 23:1-6/6 And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

John 10:1-11/11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

REFLECTION The message of the Gospel is very clear and concise. Jesus is a good shepherd giving His life so I may have life now and in eternity. This is an extraordinary message of being set free to love. Jesus shows us His act is just like a shepherd. Do you know the difference between a Middle Eastern shepherd and a western shepherd? A western Shepherd walks behind their sheep with dogs to drive them in the direction they must go. In the Middle East the shepherd walks ahead of the sheep and they follow because they know their shepherd brings them to green pastures and still waters. He does not even spare His own life. Those who reject the guardianship of Christ are exceedingly ungrateful, and deserve to follow the pathway to western culture shepherd and a total separation from God's love. That is a dreadful death. St. Augustine said we ought to desire what we ought to avoid. Christ declares that He is the good shepherd, who keeps his Church safe and sound. First, by His grace and next, by His ministers and leaders. Whenever there is good order, then Christ shows that he is actually the shepherd.

PRAYER: Lord, I long to follow you and your ways. May I open my personal door, my eyes and my heart to



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