

August 2, 2020
Christ Chapel Of Bandera
Adult Bible Study

Not needed to follow this writing/lesson is a referenced Study Guide. An attempt has been made where anybody with a Bible will find easy reading.

Sunday August 2, 2020. The Gospel Project; Adult Daily Discipleship Guide ESV Volume 8; Number 4; Summer 2020; Session 3; “Jesus Teaches About The Good Shepherd”.

Opening Joke:

What animal could Noah not trust? Cheetah.

Disclaimer:

I am not seminary trained. Other than being a Christian, I do not claim any special relationship with God. Therefore, feel free to disagree with anything and everything I write/say.

Opening Prayer:

Lord God Almighty, Creator of all, Ruler of all from the beginning; I pray that we open our hearts to You that we trust only in You and not in our own understanding. Only You are perfect. Why do we turn from You? Please forgive us when we stray. Bring us back into the fold. Through Jesus Christ, Amen.

The Lesson:

Questions for thought:

What are the duties of a shepherd?
Please describe a good shepherd.
Please describe a bad shepherd.
What are the duties of a father?
Please describe a good father.
Please describe a bad father.

Using the Bible translation of your choice please read from the Gospel of John, Chapter 10:1- 21.

In our Study Guide on page 89 the first paragraph says:

“Jesus painted a picture of two voices calling out to the sheep: one is the good shepherd and the other is a sheep thief, and they are both calling the sheep to follow them. The sheep respond to and follow the voice of the shepherd but run away from the stranger’s voice”.

Questions for thought:

In Christianity, who are the sheep?
In Christianity, who is the Good Shepherd?

Continued questions for thought:

In Christianity, who is the thief?

What is the Good Shepherd guarding and what is the thief trying to steal?

Is it your everlasting soul that is being fought over?

Does what happens to your soul depend on who wins; on to whom you choose to listen; on to whom you follow?

Do Christians always know who is calling?

How can Christians know who is calling?

Using the Bible translation of your choice please read Galatians, Chapter 5:19-23.

Questions for thought:

Can Christians tell who is calling by results? In other words, can Christians tell who is calling by judging their fruits?

Are Christians allowed to judge?

The New International Version of the Bible says in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 2 the first half of verse 15, “The spiritual man makes judgments about all things”.

Questions for thought:

Is a Christian a “spiritual man”?

Therefore, can a Christian make judgments?

Can a Christian judge or decide who is saved and who is not saved?

The New International Version of the Bible says in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 2 the last half of verse 15 and all of verse 16: “but (Christian) he himself is not subject to any man’s judgment: For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him (God)? But we have the mind of Christ”.

In Proverbs, Chapter 16 verse 2 the New International Version says: “All a man’s ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord”.

Motives: why you do what you do; the heart of the matter.

Questions for thought:

Can one man see into another man’s heart, in other words, can one man truly, always, accurately know another man’s motives?

Can God see into a man’s heart, in other words, can God truly, always, accurately know a man’s motives?

Therefore, who is the only entity that can judge who is saved and who is not saved?

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 10 verse 9 Jesus claimed: “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture”.

In verse 11 Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep”.

Romans, Chapter 6 verse 23 says: “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”.

Questions for thought:

How does one accept the “free gift of God”, “eternal life in Christ Jesus”?

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 10 verses 14-15 Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father: and I lay down My life for the sheep”.

Our Study Guide on page 87 in the first paragraph following the Bible quote says:

“Jesus said He knew His sheep and His sheep knew Him. Surprisingly, Jesus likened His relationship with His sheep to the way He knows the Father and the Father knows Him. The Father and the Son, along with the Holy Spirit, know each other intimately because they are one. So close is the relationship that seeing the Son is seeing the Father. It is this deep, intimate knowing that Jesus related to the way He knows us and we know Him”.

In Chapter 10 verse 16 of the Gospel of John, Jesus said: “ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd”.

Questions for thought:

Does this indicate that Jesus was talking to people who thought they had an exclusive as far as being in a right relationship with God?

Jews, descendants of Abraham, are called God’s chosen people, but does this mean one has to be a Jew to get into heaven?

Therefore, does verse 16 give hope to anyone that accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior?

Using the Bible translation of your choice please read the Gospel of John, Chapter 3 verses 16-19.

Questions for thought:

What does it mean, “God gave His only begotten Son”? Gave Him to whom to do what?

In verse 18 who is going to do the judging?

How can one avoid the judgment?

Are you ready to come out of the darkness and into the light?

Do you know Jesus?

Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

If you have accepted Jesus, does this reading encourage you in your walk with God?

If you have not accepted Jesus, do you want to face the judgment of God? Why wait?

Why not live the rest of your life for Jesus knowing that your eternal soul will not be separated from God but be happily in His presence forever?

If they have not already, I pray that all who read this this will at some point in their lives admit they are sinners separated from God in need of a Savior; repent turning from their sins; and ask Jesus Christ into their hearts; accepting the free gift from God.

Thank you for your time. Joe Huth