

Monday - Week Forty-two

John - Lesson Seventeen: the Good Shepherd (10:1-21)

1. Jesus said that the Pharisees were spiritually blind (John 9:41). In John 10:1 Jesus said that thieves and robbers would “climb in by some other way.” Literally He said that they would climb in “from another place.” How was this a stinging charge against the Pharisees?
2. Shepherds called their sheep by name (v 3) because they knew their sheep so well. Certainly our Good Shepherd knows us perfectly. Why is it good if under shepherds (pastors) know their fellow sheep well?
3. Jesus says that the sheep follow the shepherd willingly (v 5). Why is there infighting in so many churches? Obviously the answer is “sin” - be more specific.)
4. Jesus has come so that we can have life and have it to the full. What does “life” mean here?
5. Why does Jesus call us sheep?
6. Verse 17 tells us that Jesus knew exactly what would happen to him. Jesus even knew that He would rise from the dead. Doesn't that cheapen His death - after all, He knew that in three days His body and soul would be together in heaven.
7. Verse 18 tells us that Jesus laid down His life. How was that different from suicide?

Read: Psalm 35; Titus 1.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Jesus our Good Shepherd. Guide us to follow Him faithfully. In His name I pray; Amen.

Tuesday - Week Forty-two

John - Lesson Eighteen: Debating at the Feast (10:22-42)

1. The feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) has a colorful origin. In 165 BC Judas Maccabeus rededicated the temple in Jerusalem. Antiochus Epiphanes (a Syrian who had taken over the country) had put up a statue of Jupiter and had even let pigs run through the temple. How do you think Judas Maccabeus had affected what type of Messiah the Jews expected?
2. What is the basic difference between believers and unbelievers? (v 26-27)
3. Verse 28 records three promises that Jesus makes to us.
A. I give them eternal life.
How is eternal life ours right now?

B. They shall never perish.
Jesus literally said, "They will never be lost." Why is this euphemism for death a poor one: "Jim lost his wife a month ago."

C. No one can snatch them out of my hand.
This is a golden promise from Jesus. What about all the Christians who fall away from their faith - did Jesus break His promise? Explain.
4. Jesus' words and works support each other. What is illogical about the Jews question in verse 33?

Read: Psalm 36, Titus 2.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, keep my eyes focused on Your promises. With those promises in hand I can weather any storm. Amen.

Wednesday - Week Forty-two

Catechism Review

Read Questions 319-328

1. What exactly does it mean to confess our sins?

2. Why is it often helpful to confess our sins to another person (besides confessing them to God)?

3. Why is your pastor a good person to talk to about sin, guilt, and forgiveness?

4. Why do you suppose that more people don't talk with the pastor about these matters?

5. Why do most people say "That's alright" when someone says that they are sorry for something?

What would be a better thing to say?

Read: Psalm 37; Titus 3

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, help me to grow closer to my pastor and fellow Christians so that I feel comfortable going to them for spiritual answers when I need them. Make me approachable to others in my life so that they can come to me as well. In Jesus' name I pray; Amen.

Thursday - Week Forty-two

John - Lesson Nineteen: The Raising of Lazarus (11:1-57)

1. Mary, Martha and Lazarus were Jesus' friends. No doubt they and the disciples had enjoyed many special times (Luke 10:38-42). Jesus' raising Lazarus from the dead proved once again that He was the Son of God. Yet buried in this chapter are proofs that He was also a human being. Jesus had friends and cried when one of them died. Comment: Bigger than any miracle Jesus did was the miracle of who Jesus was.
2. Mary and Martha sent Jesus a message that really was a prayer. Read verse three carefully. What do you like about their prayer? (v 3)
3. Jesus knew that He was in the twelfth hour of His life (v 9-10). Life gets more precious as people see their death approaching. How can we appreciate the preciousness of life sooner rather than later?
4. Christians and non-Christians call death "sleep" for vastly different reasons. Explain.
5. Mary approached Jesus in the same way that Martha did. Verse 33 tells us that Jesus was "deeply moved in spirit and troubled." Jesus was mad! Why?
6. Lazarus coming out of the grave can teach us something about our conversion (coming to faith). Read Ephesians 2:1. We were spiritually dead! Jesus said, "Lazarus, come out!" Those words contained the power that enabled Lazarus to arise. When we share the Gospel with someone we can say, "Believe it!" Those words contain the power that enables people to believe. Who gets the credit for our conversion? Whose fault is it if they do not believe in Jesus?

What logical problem do you see there?

Read: Psalm 38; Philemon

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, remind me that I am living forever right now. Heaven is just around the corner! In Jesus' name I pray; Amen.

Friday - Week Forty-two

John - Lesson Twenty: Anointing of Jesus' feet (12:1-11)

1. Lazarus is mentioned four times in only 11 verses. Why was he so important all of a sudden?
2. Mary used a whole pint of expensive perfume! The perfume cost as much as a laborer was paid for a year. Mark's gospel tells us that she broke the neck of the jar and poured it out. By breaking the jar Mary showed that she was not going to hold anything back. Have you ever "broken a jar" for God? (What sometimes holds us back?)
3. Mary's display of love cost her a lot - yet she really gained so much more than she lost. What do we receive when we give extravagantly to the Lord (monetarily, with our time or talents, etc.)?
4. Mary even wiped Jesus' feet with her hair. Mary was saying, "Jesus, you are everything. You raised my brother from the dead, You teach us what the Father wants us to know, and You are the way to heaven! Lord, I humbly bow down at your feet. I am your servant." How can we get an attitude like that?

What can we do to display that type of attitude? (be specific)

5. John tells us that Judas verbally attacked Mary (Matthew tells us that the disciples were involved too). Mark tells us that they "rebuked her harshly". Why would this have been harsh for Mary? (Think about who was doing the rebuking.)
6. Read John 12:7, Matthew 26:12, Mark 14:8 and Luke 10:39. Do you think Mary actually knew that Jesus was going to die soon? Explain your answer.

Read: Psalm 39; Jude

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, Mary's love for Jesus was strong and true. Make my love for Jesus stronger and truer. In His name I pray; Amen.