



## JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

"WHO IS JESUS?" FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE - Week 30, March 4

### JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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"I am the good shepherd.  
The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

JOHN 10:11

**I**n our last story, we heard how the crowd was quite divided on their opinion of Jesus, despite what the religious leaders thought about him. Was he telling the truth, or was he crazy? In the next chapter of John, we see Jesus do another miracle, and again, the crowd is divided.

Remember the blind man Jesus healed? The one he told he was the Light of the World? The man obeyed Jesus, washing in the Pool of Siloam, and he was healed. He could see for the very first time!

You might think, *What a happy ending to this man's story!* But it wasn't the ending. The Pharisees were upset and decided to investigate, questioning both the man and his parents, and treating them very poorly in the process. The Pharisees were angry, and they took it out on this poor man and his family. When the man refused to agree with them, they threw him out.

Jesus found the man and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" (John 9:35).

"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may



believe in him” (9:36).

Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you” (9:37).

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him (9:38). Both his eyes and heart were open to Jesus. He was seeing Jesus clearer and clearer.

Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind” (9:39).

The Pharisees had been listening, and they asked, “What? Are we blind too?” (9:40).

Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains. Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber” (9:41–10:1).

At first this may seem confusing, but let’s try to understand.<sup>6</sup> Unlike the man who had just been healed, the Pharisees were blind to spiritual truth. They claimed to be experts, claimed to know the truth, claimed to be the leaders and shepherds of God’s people, but they didn’t believe in Jesus, the One sent by God. They didn’t see Jesus clearly like the man who had been healed. Jesus compares them to sheep thieves. The sheep,

including this man who had just been healed, were running away from them, as well they should! True sheep follow the voice of the shepherd, not a stranger.

The Pharisees didn’t understand, but Jesus continued to teach the lesson, and I’m so glad he did.

Jesus said, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. . . . whoever enters through me will be saved” (10:7, 9). Jesus is our only way to safe pasture, and the only way to eternal life.

How is this possible? How does Jesus give us eternal life?

Jesus went on to explain: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (10:11).

He was going to die! He’d already given up so much, and now he was going to give his very life.

But there’s more. Jesus explained to the people that he not only had authority to lay down his life, but to take it up again. In other words, he would rise!

*There he goes again with the crazy talk!*, they thought. “He’s demon-possessed and raving mad! Why listen to him?” (10:20).

But others disagreed: “These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the

eyes of the blind?” (John 10:21).

What do you think? Are your eyes open? If Jesus is

your Good Shepherd, you are safe with him. Listen to his voice, worship him, and let him care for you. He will lead you to good pasture and abundant life.



## REFLECT

1. What are the two “I am” statements Jesus makes in this story?
2. Read Psalm 23. How does God as our Good Shepherd care for us? No doubt the Pharisees knew this psalm, and it probably further made them angry that Jesus was giving himself a title that was equated with God.
3. How is the promised ruler from Bethlehem described in Micah 5:2–5?
4. What is one way Jesus will appear when he comes again? See 1 Peter 5:4.
5. What two roles does Jesus play in Revelation 7:17?

**BIBLE REFERENCE** JOHN 9:1–10:21

**KEY VERSE** JOHN 10:11