

November 3, 2024 Sunday School Lesson: Confidence In God's Shepherding Scripture: Psalm 23

The Weekly Compass

The Good Shepherd Defends the Flock

¹ "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. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So, Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹

John 10:1-10 (ESV)

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for opening the gate for us. Thank You for providing us with even the opportunity to walk through the gate. Father, thank You for knowing us enough to keep us safe even when we may stray away. Lord, we ask that You continue to keep our hearts, minds, and eyes focused on You. Help us to find ways to draw closer to You and further away from alternative routes that don't lead us to You. We are grateful that You thought enough of us to die for our sins and gives us life and life to the fullest. What an honor it is to know You. We love and thank You Lord. In Jesus name we pray,

Main Thought: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23 (KJV)

There Is Only One Route In A World Full Of Many Routes

Have you ever entered a property or street and there was only one way in and one way out? All other points of entry appeared to be either nonexistent or would take an extra amount of effort to utilize. I know I have and it's safe to say, I did not consider any alternative entry point because of the level of difficulty it would take.

If we think this way naturally, what is stopping us from operating this way spiritually when it comes to our walk with Christ? It seems that today so many are trying their best to find alternate routes to God and unfortunately those routes do not include His Son Jesus. God's Word is clear, Jesus is the door of the sheep (vs 7). What some may not realize is that these alternate routes are/can be dangerous and essentially take us further and further away from Christ.

Some of those alternate routes may appear "spiritual" but are dangerous, for instance trying to find out things alone, not regularly assembling with the body of Christ (Hebrews 10:25), thinking one can get to God without Jesus (John 14:6), etc. We need to heed to the voice of the true Shepherd, Jesus Christ who declared that His sheep knows His voice. We need to know what His voice sounds like, so when we enter through the door opened by the gatekeeper, who is Christ it will be familiar.

When we spend time with Him our familiarity with Him increases and we will know the difference between His voice and the voice of robbers and thieves! Christ came and died for everyone's sins so that we may have life and have it abundantly. Don't miss out because others are doing their own thing or persuading you to join them in taking an alternate route. Enter the door that our Savior Jesus Christ has opened for you and me.

Questions:

1. How have you looked to overcome those alternative routes and build your circle of Christ centered believers around you?
2. Have you spent enough time with God to know His voice? Why or why not?