

May 31 – Take a Deeper Dive—A devotional/reflective resource.

Micah 6:8—He has shown you, oh mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. – NIV.

John 10:1-21

Prayer Focus—Each day this week as you meet with your savior, lift up in prayer the places in the world where there is war, destruction, and little hope. Also pray for the missionaries that you know of and support. Pray for our nation and our leaders, and also your local church and community. Pray daily for our Pastors and Elders. Finally, follow the instruction in Philippians 4:4-7 make your prayer personal. Remember 1 Peter 5:7.

Monday: Reading— Ezekiel 34

Consider this— OT throwback.

When I read John 10, I am reminded of Ezekiel 34. Are you? Take a while and read through that chapter.

You might find this interesting— <https://petergoeman.com/jesus-as-the-good-shepherd-an-appeal-to-ezekiel-34/>

Tuesday: Reading— John 9; 10

Consider this— Signs, signs, everywhere a sign.

The NKJV notes comment that in John's gospel, John cites seven signs or miracles that are "concrete demonstrations of Jesus' divinity and messiahship." The miracle recorded in chapter 9 of John is listed as the sixth sign or miracle. Go through the rest of the book of John and figure out what the other six are. The NKJV notes conclude that "For John, all these signs pointed to the two miracles that are the greatest of all: Jesus' incarnation and resurrection."

Wednesday: Reading— John 10:1-10

Consider this— Nope!

The Pharisees did not want to hear what the healed blind man had to say in chapter 9. Read John 9:34. What did they do to him? Jesus brings his indictment against the Pharisees by way of analogy in chapter 10. Jesus calls the Pharisees thieves and robbers. What's the difference between a thief and a robber? How have the Pharisees been guilty of these charges? The NKJV notes say that the "Pharisees had secured their power by illegitimate means." What do you think these illegitimate means were through which the Pharisees got their power? They opposed Jesus here and in many other places. How much of their opposition to Jesus and his message was based on their fear of losing their power? To what degree does the temptation of power, either politically, materially, or spiritually, influence people to warp or misuse the Gospel today?

Thursday: Reading— John 10:11-18

Consider this— The Good Shepherd

Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd more than once. What, according to Jesus, does a good shepherd do for his flock? As Bill Ruegg said in his message on Sunday, *"Despite this great love, it is not adequate to save His sheep for He will have to lay down His life. Love is His motivation but He could not love us into His kingdom. Therefore, He willingly lays down His perfect, unspotted life as the price to purchase His flock. He lays down on this wooden gate post and is lifted high upon it. All true sheep must pass under and through this one and only heavenly gate."*

Read this statement multiple times. Each time meditate prayerfully about the sacrifice Jesus made for you, the people you know, and for all of the lost out there in the world.

Friday: Reading— John 10:1-21

Consider this— Power and authority

Jesus constructs his claims about being the gate or the good shepherd using "I AM" statements. Why is that important? What do these statements say about the power and authority Jesus is claiming?

The door—Read verse 1. What does Jesus mean when he says that anyone who does not enter the sheep hold by the door is a thief and robber. What is the door he's talking about? Note, Wiersbe says that the sheepfold here is not heaven, but the nation of Israel.

The door of the sheep; the door of salvation. Read verses 7-10. How is Jesus a door in these verses? What

does this door lead to? What is the pasture that Jesus mentions? In these verses Jesus also repeatedly mentions thieves and robbers. Who are they, and what are they doing to the sheep? Try to think about this specifically and less metaphorically.

Saturday: Reading— John 10:1-21

Consider this— grumble, grumble

What does Jesus say in this section that makes “a division again among the Jews”? It is interesting that a number of people hear and see the same things, yet they arrive at wildly different conclusions. What are the extreme conclusions drawn here? An interesting, and brief, piece on the sheep and sheepfold can be found here— <https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/door-sheepfold>

Jesus says that the sheep know the shepherd’s voice. Do you know the voice of your shepherd? Compared to today, the world in which Jesus lived was probably much quieter, calmer, and with fewer distractions. The enemy does not want you to hear the voice of your savior. He wants you to be distracted, and deceived. Pay attention to this prayer—

From the Henri Nouwen Society—

Lord Jesus,

Help me in this moment to set aside all that has preoccupied me today.

Take away the many fears that rage around me. Take away the many feelings of insecurity and low self-esteem, and let me be shaped by you, the Lamb of God.

Help me to enter more deeply into your silence, where I can listen to you and hear how you call me, and find the strength and courage to follow you. I ask you to be with me as I listen to your word and come to a deeper understanding of your mystery of calling me to follow you.

Be with me now and always.

Amen.

Sunday: Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.

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