



Scripture for the week of March 21, 202: John 10:7-18

“ 7 Therefore Jesus said again, ‘Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 ‘I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. 17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.’”

Sunday, March 21:

Scripture: Read above Scripture slowly (even if it is very familiar to you).

Questions: What stood out for you as you read this Scripture? What do you hope to be reminded of as you focus on this Scripture this week? Will you be open to learn what Jesus did for you and how much He cares for you as we walk through this time of Lent? Will you allow it to be life changing?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, through this Scripture it is easy to see how much You care for each of Your sheep. May I continue to look at this Scripture through Your eyes so that I can know for sure that I have walked through the gate and have been saved. If I have not, show me the way to Your salvation and to walk closer with You.

Monday, March 22:

Scripture: John 10:7-8: “7 Therefore Jesus said again, ‘Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.’”

Questions: Have you entered through the gate and met Jesus at the opening? Or are you one who has come before Him but have not entered through the gate? Will you take the time this day to make a commitment to Christ to meet Him at the gate and enter in, especially if you have not done that yet?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, sometimes I come close to You but do not make a commitment to enter all the way into the gate. I pray that Your love will overwhelm me this week so that I will not allow fear or doubt to prevent me from making a full commitment to You.

Tuesday, March 23:

Scripture: John 10:9-10: “9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

Questions: Do you realize that you cannot enter heaven unless you enter through Christ? Are you on the lookout for the thief and what he is doing? Do you realize that you are protected from the thief when you are in relationship with Christ? Do you need to do anything about this?

Prayer: Lord, I want to be assured that I will enter heaven and spend eternity with You. If I am not on that path, show me what to do and continue to draw me closer to You. I want to have the fullness of God in my life that will last forever.

Wednesday, March 24:

Scripture: John 10:11-12: “¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.”

Questions: Doesn't verse 11 remind you that the good shepherd spoken of here is Jesus? Knowing that He laid His life down for you are you also reminded that He will not abandon you? Do you see that even when the enemy comes in for an attack that He still will not abandon you?

Prayer: Jesus, thank You that You are the good shepherd and that You laid Your life down for me. Thank You for the comfort it brings me when I think that You will not abandon me. Help me to rely on You and trust You when I feel that the enemy is attacking rather than trying to deal with it on my own.

Thursday, March 25:

Action: John 10: 13-14: “¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ ‘I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me---“

Questions: How does it feel knowing that Jesus knows you? How about knowing that Jesus wants us to know Him? Do you realize that Jesus wasn't paid to do this job but freely took on our sin because of His love for us? Will you focus on what this means for you this day?

Prayer: Lord, how amazing it feels to realize once again how much You love me. You do not love me because of what I can do for You, or what good things I can do on this earth, or how good I am, You love me because I am Your child. Thank You for Your love and compassion for me in my life.

Friday, March 26:

Scripture: John 10:15-16: “— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.”

Questions: Can you see that the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep is intimate just as our relationship with Christ should be? Do you feel that it is an intimate relationship? How well do you do at bringing others to the Shepherd?

Prayer: Jesus, I desire to be in a closer relationship with You. The idea that You know me better than I know You, can be disconcerting. I do desire to know You better. Help me carve out time for You so that I can have a greater understanding of who You are so that I can bring others to You.

Saturday, March 27:

Action: John 10:17-18: “¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

Questions: How did it feel to be reminded that Christ laid down His life? Can you see that Jesus was loved by the Father because He was obedient to the Father? How obedient are you to the Father. Do you want to live your life as one with the Father? What will you do to attain this?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of laying down Your life for me. Help me to begin to appreciate what this means for me and how it reflects Your love for me. Help me to never take this for granted but allow this information to draw me even closer to You.