

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

Hearing the Voice of Jesus

Week of August 26, 2018 A.D.

Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice." How well are we listening to and for the voice of Jesus? Let's talk about that in this lesson.

Read John 10:11 – 13

1. Read John 10:11. If you were a shepherd, would you die to save the life of a sheep? Would you die to save the life of a stranger? Would you die to save the life of a person who has rejected your love and your friendship? Please explain your answers.
2. Do you believe that: (a) Jesus died in your place so that God can forgive you of all your sins? (b) without the substitutionary death of Jesus on our behalf, the bodies and souls of all people are condemned to torment in hell after they die? and (c) you can avoid the torment of hell by placing your faith in the death of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins? Please explain your answers.
3. Does a person who is forgiven of his sins and saved from hell by the death of Jesus have a duty or obligation to love and/or obey Jesus? If not, why not? If so, what is the limit or extent of that duty or obligation? Please explain your answer.

Read John 10:14 – 18

4. Read John 10:14 – 15. Please describe how well Jesus and God the Father know each other. Be specific in the details of your description of the intimacy of the relationship between Jesus and God the Father.
5. Are you a sheep of Jesus? What evidence do you offer in support of your answer? Do you know Jesus as well as Jesus knows the Father? Please explain your answers. Please state the specific details of your personal knowledge of Jesus, of your personal relationship with Him, and of your desire to know Him better and to please Him with your life.
6. Do you go out of your way to please Jesus as your Shepherd and friend? Does Jesus expect you to show your love for Jesus by the way you love the "other sheep" of Jesus? (see John 13:34 – 35) If not, why not? If so, how and why? Please explain your answers.

Read John 10:27 – 30

7. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “A sheep of Jesus cannot listen to the voice of Jesus without reading and understanding the Bible and without talking to Jesus in prayer.”

8. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Following Jesus requires obedience to his voice (i.e. the Bible and the Holy Spirit). Without such obedience, you are not a sheep of Jesus.”

9. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “God’s assurance of eternal life is intended to give to the sheep of Jesus the courage and the strength which may be required to follow Jesus through difficulties and trials if that is where Jesus chooses to lead the sheep.”

Read John 14:15

10. Is love for Jesus essential for salvation? Is obedience to Jesus essential for salvation? Is obedience to Jesus an essential element of love for Jesus? Please explain your answers.

Read Revelation 3:14 - 20

11. Can a sheep of Jesus (i.e. a Christian) “lose their salvation”? Can a sheep of Jesus become lukewarm in their relationship with and love for Jesus? Is repentance a choice? What is the remedy for being a lukewarm Christian? Please explain your answers.

12. Does Jesus ever rebuke and discipline his sheep? If so, how and why? Must a sheep “hear the voice of Jesus” if repentance is to occur? What act of disobedience do you personally find to be more attractive and more satisfying than allowing Jesus to “come in and eat with” you? Why? Is it worth it? Please explain your answers.

Consider: Our world is full of noise and distractions which can make it difficult for us to hear the voice of Jesus. Real sheep live simple lives which rely upon the voice of the shepherd for guidance and direction. We must discipline ourselves to have the same behavior if we are to hear and to follow the voice of Jesus. “You think about that.” Amen.