The Shepherd Who Opens Our Eyes

- **Recap chapter 9**
    - 1-5- Jesus encounters a man born blind and explains that God's works will be displayed through him.
    - 6-12- Jesus heals the man by placing mud on his eyes and telling him to wash in the Pool of Siloam.
    - 13-23- The Pharisees question the miracle because Jesus healed on the Sabbath.
    - 24-34- The man boldly defends Jesus, and the religious leaders throw him out.
- **Progression of His faith**
    - 9:11- The man they call Jesus- He recognizes Jesus as a man.
    - 9:17- He is a prophet, He recognizes Jesus' spiritual authority.
    - 9:38- Lord, I believe. He recognizes Jesus as Lord and worships Him.
- John 9:35-41- NIV
- **35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"**
- **36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."**
- **37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."**
- **38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.**
- **39 Jesus said,[a] "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."**
- **40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"**
- **41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.**

Spiritual Blindness-

- The Pharisee believe they can see but they are spiritually blind.
- What caused their spiritual blindness?
    - Pride
        - Their confidence in their own understanding prevented them from seeing their need for Jesus.
    - Self righteousness
        - They trusted in their own righteousness rather than seeing their need for God's mercy.
    - Unbelief
        - After seeing the blind man's testimony they refused to accept what the miracle revealed about Jesus.
    - Fear of losing their position

        - Later in the gospel they express concern that Jesus' growing influence could threaten their nation and place of authority.
    - Love for human approval
        - They were seeking glory from one another rather than seeking glory from God.
- Spiritual blindness is the inability or unwillingness to recognize the truth of who Jesus Christ is, even when the truth is right in front of you.
- The man born blind however received both physical sight and spiritual understanding.
- 9:38- He recognized Jesus and worshipped him.
- **The Point**
    - The blind man recognized Jesus, while the religious leaders who claimed to see remained spiritually blind.
- **Question**- Are there areas of your life that you're operating in spiritual blindness?
- Could our own pride, self righteousness, or unwillingness to be corrected prevent us from recognizing what God is revealing through His word?
- John 8:12- **12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**
- James 1:22-**22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.**
- **Spiritual blindness** doesn't always look like someone rejecting God openly. Sometimes it looks like religious pride, self righteousness or refusing to acknowledge our need for Jesus.
- **Spiritual sight-** It is NOT simply knowing scripture, it is believing in Jesus, who He is, and following Him by doing what He says.
    - Belief, leads to trust, trust leads to obedience
- **Charles Spurgeon**- It is not reading the scripture that saves you; it is believing in Christ.
- **Story**
    - Identity without Jesus
    - Identity with Jesus

Chapter 10 verse 1-11 The Good Shepherd

- **"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.**
- **2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.**
- **3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.**

- **[4] When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.**
- **[5] But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."**
- **[6] Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.**
- **[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.[a] 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.**
    - Jesus is the shepherd whose voice we recognize (vs 1-6)
    - Jesus is the gate through whom we receive salvation and life. (vs 7-10)_
    - Jesus is the good shepherd who laid down his life for us. (vs 11)
- Look at what just happened. This man was born blind. Jesus opened his eyes and because he testified about what Jesus had done, the religious leaders threw him out.
- Scripture tells us that Jesus found him.
- The religious leaders rejected him, but the good shepherd went looking for him.
- Jesus begins explaining the difference between those who claim to lead God's people vs the one who truly has the authority to lead them.
- John 10 1-2
- **"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.**
- **[2] The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.**
- We see the illustration of someone entering a sheepfold properly versus someone climbing in another way.
- A sheepfold was an enclosure where sheep could be gathered and protected. Jesus uses this familiar picture to describe legitimate shepherding versus predatory leadership.
- Ezekiel 34:1-10
- **34 The word of the LORD came to me: [2] "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? [3] You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock.**

4 You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. 5 So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. 6 My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.

- **7 "'Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: 8 As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, because my flock lacks a shepherd and so has been plundered and has become food for all the wild animals, and because my shepherds did not search for my flock but cared for themselves rather than for my flock, 9 therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: 10 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them.**
- God condemns Israel's shepherds (leaders) for not caring for the flock and only caring for themselves.
    - They had neglected the weak, sick, injured and lost!
- Ezekiel 34:11-16
- **11 "'For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. 12 As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. 14 I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. 16 I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.**
- Ezekiel prophesied this about 600 years earlier.
- Luke 19:10-
- **10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."**
- John 10:3-5
- **3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.**

- **[4] When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.**
- **[5] But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."**
    - Jesus describes a shepherd who calls his own sheep by name
    - Goes ahead of them
    - The sheep follow him because they recognize his voice
- Notice the progression
    - The shepherd calls his sheep
    - They recognize his voice
    - They follow him
- The sheep recognize their shepherd and respond by following him.
- John 10:27
- **[27] My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.**
- We come to know Jesus' teaching and character through scripture and learn to respond to him in faith and obedience. **Repeat**
- The evidence in our lives that we recognize the shepherd's voice is that we follow him.
    - Are you following the world
    - Are you following Jesus?
- **Story-**
    - Following things of this world
    - Following him
- The question to ask
    - IS THIS LEADING ME TOWARD CHRIST or away from Christ?
    - DOES THIS GLORIFY CHRIST?
- John 10:6
- **[6] Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.**
- The Pharisees could not understand Jesus' illustration because they were spiritually blind.
- The leaders were full of spiritual pride but true biblical knowledge produces humility.
- These spiritual leaders were persistent in resisting Jesus despite the evidence before them.
- 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.**

- Jesus declares I am the gate.
- The I am statement contributes to John's point in writing the gospel which is to show the deity of Christ.
- Jesus is identifying himself as the entrance through which his sheep receive salvation, security, and provision.
- Jesus is confirming that salvation is only found through him.
- John 14:6
- **6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**
- John 10:9
- **9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture.**
- Jesus continues explaining that those who enter through him will be saved and find pasture.
- Psalm 23:1-3- (Joyful trust in the lord as the good shepherd.)
- **The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake**. (His name sake)
- Following Jesus does NOT mean we will not face difficult times.
- It means when we face those difficult times He will walk with us and work it all out for our good. WHY
    - BECAUSE HE SAID SO!
- HE HAS WORKED OUT ALL THINGS FOR THE GOOD ETERNALLY.
- John 10:10
- **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.**
- The thief's interest is in himself.
- Christ's interest is in his sheep, whom he enables to have life to the fullest which is our salvation. (Explain)
- John 10:11
- **11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.**
- Jesus said that the good shepherd is willing even to die for his sheep
- John 15:13
- **13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.**
- Christ's love was demonstrated not only in his words but also in his sacrificial death.
- Ephesians 5:25
- **25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her**

- **Story**-
    - Marriage vs Single
    - I sacrifice my selfish needs to her!
- Isaiah 53:5-6
- **But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**
- Romans 5:8
- **[8] But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**
- The Pharisees claimed they could see, but they couldn't recognize the savior standing in front of them.
- Jesus is the gate. Jesus is the good shepherd. (Good excellent, noble and worthy)
- Jesus is the one who gave his life for his sheep.
- The question isn't simply whether you know about Jesus…
- **Three Key Takeaways**
- **Recognize Jesus-** Don't allow spiritual blindness to keep you from recognizing who He is.
- **Follow Jesus-** Knowing about Jesus isn't the same as knowing Him. True faith produces obedience.
- **Trust Jesus-** He is the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for us.
- Church repeat (**Commitmentment statements**)
    - We commit to follow Jesus
    - We commit to put our faith in Jesus
    - We commit to know you Jesus through your word
- The greatest gift was not the man receiving his sight but him getting to recognize Jesus Christ as his Lord and savior.
- The same shepherd who found that man, is the same shepherd who laid down his life so that we could have eternal life with Him.
- Salvation Call
- Pray Out