

26 “What did he do to you?” they asked. “How did he cure you of your blindness?”

27 “I have already told you,” he answered, “and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Maybe you, too, would like to be his disciples?”

28 They insulted him and said, “You are that fellow’s disciple; but we are Moses’ disciples. **29** We know that God spoke to Moses; as for that fellow, however, we do not even know where he comes from!”

30 The man answered, “What a strange thing that is! You do not know where he comes from, but he cured me of my blindness! **31** We know that God does not listen to sinners; he does listen to people who respect him and do what he wants them to do. **32** Since the beginning of the world nobody has ever heard of anyone giving sight to a person born blind. **33** Unless this man came from God, he would not be able to do a thing.”

34 They answered, “You were born and brought up in sin—and you are trying to teach us?” And they expelled him from the synagogue.

Spiritual Blindness

35 When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked him, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

36 The man answered, “Tell me who he is, sir, so that I can believe in him!”

37 Jesus said to him, “You have already seen him, and he is the one who is talking with you now.”

38 “I believe, Lord!” the man said, and knelt down before Jesus.

39 Jesus said, “I came to this world to judge, so that the blind should see

and those who see should become blind.”

40 Some Pharisees who were there with him heard him say this and asked him, “Surely you don’t mean that we are blind, too?”

41 Jesus answered, “If you were blind, then you would not be guilty; but since you claim that you can see, this means that you are still guilty.”

The Parable of the Shepherd

10 **1** Jesus said, “I am telling you the truth: the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. **2** The man who goes in through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him; the sheep hear his voice as he calls his own sheep by name, and he leads them out. **4** When he has brought them out, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they know his voice. **5** They will not follow someone else; instead, they will run away from such a person, because they do not know his voice.”

6 Jesus told them this parable, but they did not understand what he meant.

Jesus the Good Shepherd

7 So Jesus said again, “I am telling you the truth: I am the gate for the sheep. **8** All others who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. **9** I am the gate. Those who come in by me will be saved; they will come in and go out and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.



11 "I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep. **12** When the hired man, who is not a shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees a wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away; so the wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them. **13** The hired man runs away because he is only a hired man and does not care about the sheep. **14-15** I am the good shepherd. As the Father knows me and I know the Father, in the same way I know my sheep and they know me. And I am willing to die for them. **16** There are other sheep which belong to me that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them, too; they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock with one shepherd.

17 "The Father loves me because I am willing to give up my life, in order that I may receive it back again. **18** No one takes my life away from me. I give it up of my own free will. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it back. This is what my Father has commanded me to do."

19 Again there was a division among the people because of these words. **20** Many of them were saying, "He has a demon! He is crazy! Why do you listen to him?"

21 But others were saying, "A man with a demon could not talk like this! How could a demon give sight to blind people?"

Jesus Is Rejected

22 It was winter, and the Festival of the Dedication of the Temple was being celebrated in Jerusalem. **23** Jesus was walking in Solomon's Porch in the Temple, **24** when the people gathered around him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense?

Tell us the plain truth: are you the Messiah?"

25 Jesus answered, "I have already told you, but you would not believe me. The deeds I do by my Father's authority speak on my behalf; **26** but you will not believe, for you are not my sheep. **27** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they shall never die. No one can snatch them away from me. **29** What my Father has given me is greater than everything, and no one can snatch them away from the Father's care. **30** The Father and I are one."

31 Then the people again picked up stones to throw at him. **32** Jesus said to them, "I have done many good deeds in your presence which the Father gave me to do; for which one of these do you want to stone me?"

33 They answered, "We do not want to stone you because of any good deeds, but because of your blasphemy! You are only a man, but you are trying to make yourself God!"

34 Jesus answered, "It is written in your own Law that God said, 'You are gods.' **35** We know that what the scripture says is true forever; and God called those people gods, the people to whom his message was given. **36** As for me, the Father chose me and sent me into the world. How, then, can you say that I blaspheme because I said that I am the Son of God? **37** Do not believe me, then, if I am not doing the things my Father wants me to do. **38** But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, you should at least believe my deeds, in order that you may know once and for all that the Father is in me and that I am in the Father."



Jesus Is the Good Shepherd



John 10:11-15 (For the full story, read John 10:1-18.)

11 [Jesus said] "I am the good **shepherd**, who is willing to die for the sheep. 12 When the **hired** man, who is not a shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees a wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away; so the wolf snatches the sheep and **scatters** them. 13 The hired man runs away because he is only a hired man and does not care about the sheep. 14-15 I am the good shepherd. As the Father knows me and I know the Father, in the same way I know my sheep and they know me. And I am willing to die for them."

shepherd someone who takes care of sheep

hired paid to work for someone

scatters chases off in different directions



Understand It!

Sheep are followers. They can't protect themselves. Without a shepherd's care, they may get lost, be attacked, or fall off a cliff. Shepherds have the job of caring for sheep. They lead them to food and water and chase away wild animals. A good shepherd loves his sheep and knows each one. They are his sheep and he is responsible for their safety. If a wolf comes, the shepherd risks his life to save his sheep. But a person who is paid to watch someone's sheep might not care about them as much. If the sheep are attacked, he might even run away!

In this Bible story from John, Jesus called himself a good shepherd. He proved he is a good shepherd by dying to save us from sin and death. He knows and loves us. Jesus is a shepherd worth following forever.

Live It!

Psalm 23 is a Bible prayer in which the Lord is described as a good shepherd. Here are a few verses you can pray right now:

The LORD is my shepherd;

I have everything I need.

He lets me rest in fields of green grass
and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.

He gives me new strength.

He guides me in the right paths,
as he has promised.

(verses 1-3)

John 10
STORY

Tell It!



Using the pictures above, retell this story in your own words.

