

TITLE AND NUMBER: 79. The Shepherd looks after His sheep!



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): John 10:25-30

Jesus answered, 'I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.'

LOOKING FURTHER: Psalm 23

What does this Bible passage tell us?

Just before this passage, Jesus did many miracles to help people, and it really upset the religious leaders of the time. They wanted to know how He could do them, and they tried to catch Him out with tricky questions.

A crowd of people saw Jesus in the Temple porch and asked Him if He was "the Messiah." Could Jesus be the Saviour they were waiting for?

Jesus answered them, but the people did not have the faith to believe Him. Jesus explained that He is God's Son, and that He had come from God to call people and give eternal life to those who responded.

Elsewhere, the Bible speaks of how easy it is to be lost or left behind in our faith. However, here it says, "no-one will snatch them out of my hand." When we trust in God, even though we mess up sometimes, God is a God of second chances. He fiercely guards His sheep, willing us to stay on the path, feeding us on His Word and inviting us to live our life close at His side all the time.

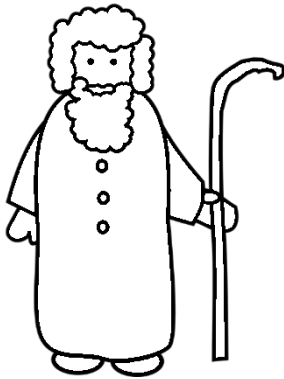
Jesus wants us to trust Him to lead us like a Shepherd safely through life – but we have to let Him. We can listen to His voice (v27) by reading what the Bible says and by praying. We know in our hearts when He is pleased with us...or not. He gives us many chances to say sorry if we have not listened or we have done wrong (or sinned). He will not abandon us, because He loves us far more than we can imagine!

Reflections:

- We can say that we are Christians, but we have to choose to follow Jesus every day - sometimes in little things, sometimes in very big things (for example, how you speak or behave, or things you have to try not to do). What choices have you had to make to follow Jesus?
- Sometimes we can lack faith – just like the crowd in the story. If we ask God, He will help us to have greater faith. Reading the Psalms is often good for this, especially Psalm 23. Try reading it and let the words encourage you this week.



Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

