

Men and Sheep

By

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In Luke 15:6 we read “when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'” NKJV. Andrew Bonar said that in the highlands of Scotland sheep occasionally wander off among the rocky crags and get themselves trapped on dangerous ledges. Attracted by the sweet grass on the mountainside, they leap down 10 to 12 feet to get to that sweet grass, however they find they cannot get back up. The shepherd will allow the helpless animal to remain there for days until it becomes so weak it's unable to stand up. Finally he ties a rope around his waist and goes over the cliff to the rocky shelf and rescues the one that had strayed. When asked why he doesn't go down right away, he answers the sheep are so foolish they would dash right over the precipice and be killed if the herdsman did not wait for their strength to wane. The Bible, both the Old Testament and the New Testament, likens the human race unto sheep for like sheep we need a shepherd to guide us and to protect us.

In Chicago, Illinois at the stock yards they had a goat named the Judas Goat which led the sheep down the ramp to slaughter and the sheep followed one after the other even though they could see the sheep before them being killed. Man like sheep finds it difficult to see the wisdom of the TRUE SHEPHERD, The Lord Jesus Christ. Isaiah the prophet had this in mind when he wrote:

Isa. 53:6, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” NKJV

Like those sheep walking one by one down the ramp to their slaughter, we continue to walk on toward our own destruction even as we witness the destruction of those who go before us. We find it much easier to follow the wide path of the “Judas goat” than the narrow path of the True Shepherd.

Prov. 16:25, “There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.” NKJV

Mt 7:13-14, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” NKJV

The Bible makes it very clear that we have all sinned and come short of the Glory or Righteousness of God. Therefore, we are told that the wages of our sin is death. The only hope we have to pass from death unto life is through the gift of God, Jesus Christ the Lord.

Rom. 3:23-25, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” NKJV

Rom. 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” NKJV

Jesus Himself indicated that eternal life was only possible by coming to God through Him.

Jn. 14:6, “Jesus said to him, “**I am the way**, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through Me.**” NKJV

1 Jn 5:12-13, “**He who has the Son has life**; he who **does not have the Son of God does not have life**. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life**, and that you may **continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.**” NKJV

So even though the Lord Jesus told us plainly and clearly that he alone is the exclusive way to God the Father and to the forgiveness of our sin, humanity prefers to stray from the only source of eternal life. So they try to devise other ways to find acceptance with God such as good deeds, religious works and rituals, improving their life style, turning over a new leaf, being water baptized, joining a church, and etc. Some will even try making radical promises to God thinking that God will then accept them. But dear friend, as someone has said it for all to hear... “Salvation cannot be achieved, it must be received.” No one ever knows deliverance from their sins until they realize and admit honestly to themselves as well as to God that they are helpless and lost with no hope of acceptance with God apart from receiving Jesus personally as their savior, Lord, and God. Dear ones, if you are not yet saved, you like the sheep who is on the ledge of the cliff, lost, unable to rescue yourself. Jesus is the only way to God and to His home, heaven.