

Reading Together
Bible Reading
February 15 - 28

Monday, February 15 – John 10: 1 – 21

We come to two more of Jesus' "I Am" sayings in verses seven and fourteen. In verse 7 Jesus says I am the gate. Jesus is the one who allows entrance into the sheep fold and protects those who are in the fold. In verse fourteen, Jesus says I am the good shepherd. Psalm 100: 3 says that "we are his people, the sheep of his pasture," and now Jesus tells us that he is the shepherd of God's people. Notice the distinction that Jesus makes between himself, as the good shepherd, and the thief and the hired hand. Jesus is not like those who try to harm the sheep or like those who care for the sheep until danger or inconvenience comes. He faithfully cares for, guards and protects his sheep to the point where he is even willing to lay down his life for them.

Tuesday, February 16 – John 10: 22 – 42

This passage starts with the Jews asking Jesus to tell them plainly if Jesus is the Christ (the Anointed One, the Messiah). Notice Jesus' answer in verse 25. Jesus' words alone should have convinced them that Jesus is the Messiah, but even if the words didn't, the miracles Jesus did should have. In verse 26 the reason why they won't believe Jesus is the Christ becomes clear—they are not his sheep. Now notice what Jesus says next: his sheep hear his voice, they follow him, they receive eternal life through him, and they are eternally secure because Jesus sheep are held forever in his hand. Notice the exclamation point Jesus points on this section with the words "I and my Father are one." Notice the

Jews try several times to kill Jesus, but cannot, because Jesus' time has not yet come.

Wednesday, February 17 – John 11: 1 – 57

There are some important things to notice in this passage, and some are clearer than others. The first thing I want you to notice is the power Jesus has over death. As we read this we should remember that through his own resurrection from the grave Jesus has broken the power that death has over our lives. In verse 25, Jesus makes this clear by saying "I am the resurrection and the life." Also notice verse 35. A lot of times we joke about this verse calling it the shortest verse in the Bible, but think what this tells us about Jesus. Why did Jesus weep? He already knew he was going to raise Lazarus from the dead, so he wasn't crying about that. Jesus was crying because of the pain that Mary and Martha were feeling. Jesus sympathizes and shares our pain to the point where even though he knows things will be better for us someday, he still hurts when we hurt. The third and maybe most overlooked thing to notice in this passage is why all of this happened. In verse 4, Jesus tells us why this terrible thing has happened to Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. It is for the glory of God and the Son of God. We must always remember this as we struggle through the difficulties we face in this life. Every difficulty is an opportunity for God to be glorified.

As you come to the end of chapter 11 notice how hard the Pharisees' hearts are. Rather than rejoicing over what God has done through Jesus, all they can think about is how they can get rid of him. It's pretty amazing, isn't it?

Thursday, February 18 – John 12: 1 – 19

In today's reading we see Mary, who is overcome with love for Jesus because he has raised her brother, Lazarus, from the dead, pour expensive perfume on Jesus. This perfume would prepare his body for burial. Mary had no idea that Jesus was about to die, she was just trying to worship Jesus, but as you keep reading you will see that there is no time for Jesus' body to be properly prepared for burial.

While Mary is individually worshipping Jesus, the multitudes are gathering to worship him as well. But these multitudes would soon turn on Jesus and be part of the mob that wanted him crucified. Mary saw Jesus as Lord; the multitudes wanted Jesus to be king. They figured anyone who had enough power to raise the dead could also rid their land of the Roman soldiers.

Friday, February 19 – John 12: 20 – 50

In today's reading we see Greeks come and want to meet with Jesus. When Jesus is told that these Greeks want to see him, he seems to answer in a strange way, but it is not really strange. Jesus' answer indicates that by his death many will be saved—"For God so loved the world"—as Jesus is lifted up on the cross people from all over the world are drawn to him as their savior. Notice that even as the Greeks want to see Jesus his own people, the Jews, are rejecting him, because the Messiah they were looking for would never die.

Saturday, February 20 – John 13: 1 – 38

The first seventeen verses of this chapter recount Jesus washing his disciples' feet. The disciples were all too proud to wash each other's feet, so Jesus takes a towel, wraps it around his waist and

goes to work washing dirty feet. If you think of Jesus as the disciples' teacher, this is an amazing thing for Jesus to do. How much more amazing is it in light of the fact that Jesus is God! Imagine God becoming a servant willing to wash the feet of those too proud to do it themselves! There is a picture here of Jesus as our servant savior who is constantly bending low to clean the sin off of us.

What makes what Jesus did even more amazing is the fact that he also washed the feet of the one who would betray him (Judas), and the feet of the one who would deny him (Peter). Notice how even after Peter is humbled because Jesus washes his feet, he still is filled with pride thinking that he is better and stronger than Jesus' other disciples.

Sunday, February 21 – John 14: 1 – 14

Chapters fourteen to eighteen are the words Jesus spoke to his disciples in the upper room on the night he would be betrayed. These chapters are filled with truths that we need to take hold of to live our lives in Christ. In verses 1 - 4 of this chapter, Jesus tells his disciples and us that he is going to prepare a place for us, including the promise that he will come back to take us to that place.

In verses 5 - 14, Jesus makes two truths very clear. First, you can't get to the Father unless you go through Jesus with the words, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Second, because we have seen Jesus we have also seen the Father. Those words take us back to the first verses of this Gospel where John calls Jesus the Word because Jesus reveals God to us.