

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of March 24, 2019**

**THEME: "Questions People Asked: Where?"  
LOST SHEEP**

**Sunday .....Read Luke 15:1-10**

*"And what man among you, having an hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he finds it?"* A big question on that shepherd's mind would be "Where is the lost sheep?" Jesus gave that illustration while He was speaking with the scribes and Pharisees. They were grumbling about Jesus and His disciples associating with sinners without realizing that they were actually exposing their own self-righteousness and implying that they were above mingling with sinners. Well, the Bible in Romans 3:23 teaches that all are sinners: *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* God, and only God is perfect; all humanity needs a Savior to be pardoned from the penalty of sin by a Holy and Righteous God! Yes, adherents to manmade religions fall short in their efforts to be made righteous. They are lost sheep in need of a shepherd, and Jesus, and only Jesus, is that great Shepherd. That was His reason for coming to earth. Listen to what He said in Matthew 9:36 and Luke 19:10: *"And when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd...I am come to seek and to save that which was lost."* He was repeating an Old Testament observation in Isaiah 53:6: *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way: and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."* Yes, the Old Testament prophet spoke of Jesus coming to be the Shepherd who would lay down His life for lost sheep!

**TWO WAYS**

**Monday ..... Read Matthew 7:13-14**

*"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow, that leads to life, and few there are who find it."* Just after His teaching on prayer and what has come to be known as the Golden Rule, Jesus spoke of the two paths all people are traveling in life's earthly journey. The one is the way of spiritual light that leads to heaven; the other, the way of darkness leading to hell. Every person is traveling on one of these two roads. The Bible teaches in Romans 5:18 that every person begins life on the dark road as a condemned sinner. It is God's desire that all people get off that road and on the road of eternal light leading to heaven. That is the reason God sent His Son into the world: to pay the toll necessary to get on this narrow road to heaven. That toll was the precious blood of Jesus that cleanses us from sin. Those are the important truths of I Peter 1:18-19 and I John 1:7: *"You know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot...The blood of Christ cleanses from all sin."* Every person has that most important decision to make about his or her life and eternal destination. Obviously, the earlier in life an individual opens his or her heart to Christ, the more productive he or she can be for the glory of God; but it is never too late! Eternity is a long time and a last minute decision means being in heaven forever!

**SEEKING A KING**

**Tuesday ..... Read Matthew 2:1-6**

*"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and have come to worship Him."* How did these men from a distant country know about a coming King of the Jews? It is amazing how God reaches to the uttermost parts of His earth with His *"good tidings of great joy."* What a blessing to see how the Old Testament blends so perfectly with the New Testament, and I think this in one of those examples. Think back to the days of the Babylonian Captivity when some Jewish teens were taken captive and brought to Babylonia. Remember Daniel and his friends who stayed true to their faith and became an important part of that nation's history. Well, it appears that their witness paid off

centuries later because these magi from the East wanted to worship this Jewish King! What an example for us to understand the importance of worship! This is a great lesson on the emphasis God puts on worship to include it in His Holy Word?

**DEPARTURE**

**Wednesday .....Read John 13:35-36**

*"Simon Peter said unto Him, Lord, where are you going?"* Peter posed this question just after Jesus had told His disciples that He would be leaving them in a little while, and the disciples would not be going with Him. They had been with Him for three years, following Him wherever He went. Jesus told them to continue working together with all believers in a strong bond of love for each other. That love for each other would be the glue that would keep them together and would show the world that they were indeed His followers. Naturally, the disciples were troubled about this shocking news of His departure. They did not want Him to leave! Jesus did put their minds somewhat at ease when He told them where He was going and why He was going there. What He told them was that He was returning to heaven to prepare a place for them to be there too. He went on to say that He, and only He, was the way to get to heaven. There simply is no other way! I am so glad that Peter asked that question about where He was going, because the answer Jesus gave is one of the most popular passages of Scripture in the Bible. His answer has been repeated millions of times since He said it.

**DESTINATION**

**Thursday .....Read John 14:1-6**

*"In my Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you: I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."* Every human being is an eternal being and all people are on a road leading them to an eternal destination: heaven or hell. Not believing that does not change that! Anyone risking the idea that the Bible is less than the absolute truth of God is taking a tragic gamble; but there are many who are taking that risk. In terms of eternal matters, the Bible is the only resource we have to give the answer to the question "Where?" If a person wonders where he is headed, only the Bible can give the correct answer. Jesus said: *"I am the way...no man comes to the Father, but by me."* If people reject that, they are saying Jesus lied! That is identifying with the people that had demanded His crucifixion - not good company! Every person will eventually confess that Jesus is Lord, either now putting them on the road to heaven or later as the Judge who will sentence them to hell. Heed the words of Philippians 2:10-11: *"That at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow...and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

**SPECIAL OCCASION**

**Friday .....Read Matthew 26:17-19**

*"Now on the first day of the feast of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover."* Shortly before the time of His crucifixion, Jesus' disciples asked Him where He would want them to set up for the Passover Feast, a common observance for all Jews in obedience to the command of God given to have them commemorate their deliverance from bondage in Egypt. This particular observance would be unusual because it would be the time that Jesus would bring to pass God's new covenant with His chosen people that the prophet had mentioned in Jeremiah 31:31: *"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Jacob."* It was on that occasion that Jesus established the ordinance that we refer to as our Communion Service, at which believers gather regularly to remember Jesus' sacrificial giving of His body and blood to pay for the sins of all mankind. How vital it is for all believers to join hearts in this remembrance in obedience to the command of our Savior!

**GIFT OF HOSPITALITY**

**Saturday .....Read Romans 12:9-13**

*"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted in prayer, contributing to the needs of saints, practicing hospitality."* I find it interesting that Jesus, responding to the disciples asking Him where they should prepare that most important Passover Feast ever, picked a home! The owner's name is not given, but he was called

upon for this great event. Imagine that man's delight! It is common for God to use homes. That becomes very apparent in any study of the gospels and the book of Acts recording the events of the beginning of the Church Age. Hospitality is one of the special gifts God has given to believers, as we see in today's Bible reading. Christians who open their homes to others are bringing delight to our Heavenly Father. Two great Biblical examples of God using homes to present the Gospel to searching hearts are in Acts 9 & 10 detailing the conversion of Paul and Cornelius. Praise God for all those today whose homes are open to the Holy Spirit to bring honor and glory to God.