

04/03/2016



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“¹⁹ There arose a division again among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰ And many of them were saying, “He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?” ²¹ Others were saying, “These are not the sayings of one demon-possessed. A demon cannot open the eyes of the blind, can he?”

John 1

“¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

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| Revelation to the world of sinners | Revelation to individuals | Revelation to multitudes | Rejection by the Jewish leaders | Ministry to the disciples | Ministry to the world of sinners |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1-2 | 3-5 | 6-8 | 9-12 | 13-17 | 18-21 |
| Signs | | | | Sermons | Sacrifice |
| Public ministry | | | | Private ministry | Paschal ministry |
| Galilee & Judea | | | | Jerusalem | |
| About 3 1/2 years | | | | Only a few days | |

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Observations

There are many elements in Jesus' discourses that would have been unexpected and controversial.

1. He presents himself in ways that are **indirect (with signs)** so that only a remnant within Israel would recognize him. **(NOT EXPECTED)**
2. He does not come as a **political deliverer**. **(NOT EXPECTED)**
His signs hint at his mission - Savior of individual souls.
3. He will be one with **God the Father**.
Not a part of a Jewish Messiah's resume. **(NOT EXPECTED)**



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Who are Jesus' sheep?

- It's as though he had a relationship with them before they encounter him or believe him.
- Those who do not have such a relationship apparently do not hear or understand him.
- The best explanation is that Jesus is calling out the believing remnant within Israel who have been waiting for Messiah.
- The “other sheep” are apparently Gentiles that will one day hear and follow Jesus like the remnant of Israel.



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Three questions

1. What constitutes “Abundant life”?
 - Jesus' Spirit does not indwell our circumstances but rather our heart in responding to them.
 - Don't confuse the O.C. with the N.C. The hope of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday are not the same.
 - Look at the lives of Jesus and the Apostles for examples.
2. What does it mean to be “free”?
 - We are not free from the Good Shepherd.
 - We are bound by love, which is a higher calling.
3. What is the key to following the Shepherd?
 - Trusting that he is GOOD.
 - Hearing his voice.



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Signs that we may not be following the Good Shepherd

Anxiety
is a negative audit of the future.
“Something awful will happen.”

Anger
is a negative audit of the past.
“Something awful has happened.”

- Withdrawal - “I can't face it.”
- Defensive - “Don't touch me.”



- Shame - “I blew it.”
- Bitterness - “Someone else blew it.”

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Signs that we are probably following the Good Shepherd

Courage
is a positive audit
of the future.
"I can follow
without fear."

Grace
is a positive audit
of the Past.
"I am forgiven
and forgiving."

SHALOM

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How do we recognize his voice?

1. We point our lives in the right direction.

- It is easier to find the right path if we are **FACING** in the right direction and **WALKING**.



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Marriage



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- We **COMMIT** our lives to follow **BEFORE** we get our marching orders.
- Use a **COMPASS** when you don't have a road map.

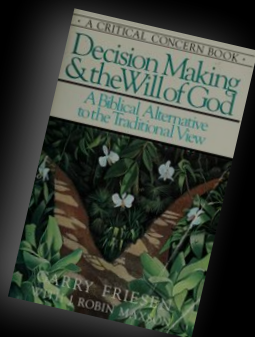


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"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him." James 1:5



Garry Friesen



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2. We seek and demand notarization.

- Is what we are hearing consistent with what he has said before (in **SCRIPTURE**)?
- What have I learned from past **EXPERIENCES**?
- Does it receive the blessing of the Christian **COMMUNITY**?

3. We must trust him.

- Faith requires **RISK**.
- Faith is trusting God in the **DARK**.



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Conclusions

- **The world is not a safe place for sheep without a Good Shepherd.**
- **A Good Shepherd is willing to sacrifice his life for the welfare of the sheep.**
- **Sheep who are wise (have an ear to hear) will follow him.**
- **Those who do not welcome the Good Shepherd will live to regret it.**