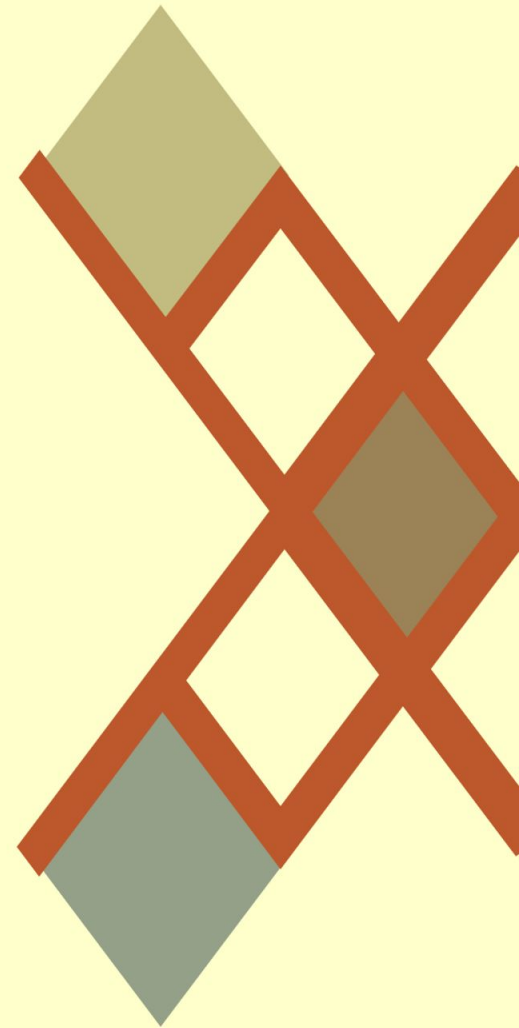


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AN
ACCEPTABLE
SACRIFICE
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VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

□ **1 John 2:3-6** By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

THERE IS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN

TRUSTING GOD AND ACTING RESPONSIBLY

□ **John 12:26** "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

PARABLE OF THE 170 SHEEP

□ The life lessons:

1. Sheep don't seem to have great awareness of their circumstances; when people are compared to them it isn't exactly a compliment
2. Sheep can get lost and have no idea how to get where they need to go
3. Non-shepherds acting like shepherds cause more chaos than helpful solutions
4. Sheep recognize the voice of the shepherd
5. Sheep will follow a leader sheep who is following the shepherd

□ **Isaiah 53:6** All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

CHOOSING LEADERS

- **Matthew 23:6-12** "They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men. But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. Do not call *anyone* on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, *that is*, Christ. But the greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.
- Every teacher, father, and leader should be serving under the headship of THE Teacher, Father, and Leader.
- There was a leader sheep who could only lead when guided by the shepherd.

THE PERIL OF NON-SHEPHERDS

- **2 Peter 2:1-3** But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words;
- **Maybe sheep aren't as stupid as I thought! They waited for the shepherd to guide their leader**
- **Proverbs 2:6-8** For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; *He is* a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice, and He preserves the way of His godly ones.

IMPOSTERS

- **2 Corinthians 11:12-15** But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also **disguise** themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.
- Disguise: *metaschematizo*: to change your appearance so you look like something you are not
- If we don't know God's word, we are very likely to follow the wrong leaders

HOW SHEEP STRAY

- **Luke 15:3-7** So He told them this parable, saying, "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' I tell you that in the same way, there will be *more* joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.
- Sheep stray gradually – one tuft of grass at a time!

WHY JUDAH FELL

- **Jeremiah 50:6-7** "My people have become lost sheep; Their shepherds have led them astray. They have made them turn aside *on* the mountains; They have gone along from mountain to hill And have forgotten their resting place. All who came upon them have devoured them; And their adversaries have said, 'We are not guilty, inasmuch as they have sinned against the LORD *who is* the habitation of righteousness, even the LORD, the hope of their fathers.'
- Satan moves quickly when he sees that we are sinning and following wrong leadership
- Jeremiah gave the people God's truth
- False prophets told the people what they wanted to hear; false leadership cost them dearly

JESUS BELIEVED HERETICAL

□ **John 10:24-31** The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one." The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.

WHAT DID THEY BELIEVE?

□ **John 8:25-30** So they were saying to Him, "Who are You?" Jesus said to them, "What have I been saying to you *from* the beginning? I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world." They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father. So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."

As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him.

THEY DIDN'T HAVE SAVING FAITH

□ **John 8:31-38** So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered Him, "We are **Abraham's** descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. I speak the things which I have seen with *My* Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from *your* father."

THEY DIDN'T HAVE SAVING FAITH

□ **John 8:39-44** They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. As it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? Because you cannot hear My word. You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the

CONCLUSION

IF A CHRISTIAN DOES NOT KNOW WHEN GOD IS SPEAKING, HE/SHE IS IN TROUBLE AT THE HEART OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. IF THIS IS A DIFFICULTY FOR YOU, STOP EVERYTHING ELSE AND ASK GOD TO TEACH YOU UNTIL YOU ARE CERTAIN OF HIS VOICE