

John 9:35–10:6 – “The True Shepherd”

Jesus Christ, the True Shepherd, never abandons His sheep. When the world rejects us for standing on truth, He draws near to comfort, guide, and lead us by His Word.

The Biblical World – Understanding the Context:

In John’s Gospel, Jesus is revealed as the Light who gives sight and the Shepherd who gives life. Following the healing of the man born blind, the Pharisees—Israel’s supposed spiritual leaders—cast him out of the synagogue for boldly confessing Christ. In response, Jesus sought him out, revealing Himself as the Son of God. This encounter exposed the blindness of Israel’s false shepherds and set the stage for Jesus’ teaching that He alone is the True Shepherd.

Passage Outline

- **I. The Shepherd seeks out the rejected (9:35–38)**
 - **II. The Shepherd exposes blindness (9:39–41)**
 - **III. The Shepherd calls His sheep by name (10:1–6)**
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Passage Notes

I. The Shepherd seeks out the rejected (9:35–38)

After being cast out for confessing Christ, the healed man was found by Jesus, who revealed Himself as the Son of God. The man believed and worshiped Him. When rejection comes, Jesus draws near—not to scold, but to comfort. Fellowship and worship deepen most in moments of pain and obedience.

II. The Shepherd exposes blindness (9:39–41)

Jesus declared that He came “that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.” Those humble enough to admit their need receive sight, but self-righteous hearts remain blind. The Pharisees’ sarcasm only revealed their guilt. Spiritual blindness is not about lack of knowledge—it’s about pride that refuses to believe.

III. The Shepherd calls His sheep by name (10:1–6)

Jesus contrasted Himself with false leaders who climb in by another way. He enters by the door, calls His sheep by name, and leads them out. His sheep know His voice because they know His Word. The more we grow in Scripture, the clearer His guidance becomes and the easier it is to reject the voice of strangers.

The Modern World – Relevance Today:

In a culture of confusion and competing voices, many follow spiritual “leaders” who twist truth for gain. But Jesus still speaks through His Word, guiding His people personally and faithfully. Those who know His voice find security in Him, not in the approval of others.

The World of the Congregation – Applying This Passage Today:

Believers who stand on grace and truth may face ridicule or rejection, even from religious circles. Yet Christ’s presence offers comfort, His Word provides clarity, and His Spirit strengthens courage. The True Shepherd still seeks, still speaks, and still leads.

What This Means for Us

- **Rejection is an opportunity to experience Jesus’ presence more personally and worship Him more fully.**
 - *How has Jesus brought you comfort?*
 - → Open up to Him in prayer, obey what is written, and grow in your fellowship with Him.
- **Humility leads to sight in Christ, but pride leaves people blind and condemned.**
 - *In what areas do we need to humble ourselves?*
 - → Let the word of God expose our blindness, surrender, and let Christ work in those areas.
- **The more we grow in God’s Word, the more we recognize the Shepherd’s guidance.**
 - *Have we neglected what is written and rely more on our feelings?*
 - → Be diligent, to study and apply the word of God, not going beyond what has already been revealed.