

# Sermon Notes

## A Closer Look – Your Favorite Verses Explored

### July 20-21, 2019

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **A Closer Look: Favorite Verses Explored**
- We are looking at the most quoted verses in the Bible. Are they taken out of context, do they present only part of the truth, or do they really mean what we think they mean?? That is the question!
- **John 10:10**
- This is a great verse!! It is an example of a verse that is absolutely true, but only tells half of the story.
  - o We will compare and contrast **John 10:10** with **Luke 9:23**.
  - o Both verses are true AND lead to the same place, but they look completely different!
    - Imagine if you read one of these everyday but didn't even know about the other one?
- Context for each:
- **John 9:40-10:18**
  - o **John 9:40-10:6**. Jesus is saying that his sheep will follow him but won't follow false teachers.
  - o **John 10:7-10**. Jesus is the gate. Others are thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn't listen.
  - o **John 11-18**. Jesus is the good shepherd, not the hired hand. He lays down his life for the sheep.
  - o Main point: Follow Jesus and you get many good things: a devoted good shepherd and abundant life! Follow false religion and you get stolen from and abandoned when evil comes knocking.
- **Luke 9:18-27**
  - o **Luke 9:18-22**. Jesus reveals that he is the Christ and that he must suffer, die, and rise again.
  - o **Luke 9:23-27**. Jesus explains the cost of being a disciple. It will be hard, but worth it.
  - o Main point: Follow Jesus and you get many good things: you will find your life and your life will be saved! AND, you will need to sacrifice everything to receive that blessing.
- Together, these sections of Scripture give a more complete picture.
  - o It isn't that one is right and the other wrong, but they weave together. Both sacrifice and blessing.
  - o Other examples of this dynamic: Is following Jesus about love or conflict? Easy or hard work?
  - o Is parenting wonderful or a ton of work? Both! If you only see one of the other, that will be tuff.
- When I was a new believer I caught Luke 9:23 but somehow missed John 10:10. You? Catch both.
  - o I understood sacrifice, but not blessing. Others understand blessing but not sacrifice. Need both.
  - o Marriage Paradox, Church Attendance Paradox, Tithing/Serving others Paradox, etc.
- Why do people follow Jesus? Often because of the promise of the free gift of forgiveness and eternal life.
  - o Then they get surprised by the sacrifices and hardships involved. Is that fair?
  - o How I see it. John 10:10 is level 1, Luke 9:23 is level 2, John 10:10 is level 3! Like having a child.
- Let's synthesize **John 10:10** with **Luke 9:24-25**. The Christian Existential Paradox.
  - o Finding yourself may not be easier, but it's better! You get to be you! Not fake or forced, but you.
  - o If you aren't there, you can get there. You can get back on track. Free will and croquet. ☺
- So, is following Jesus a life of sacrifice or a life of blessing? Both!
  - o The sacrifice is our part, the input. The blessing is God's part, the outcome.
  - o Be diligent in sacrifice and full of faith for the blessings!
- Closing verse: **1 Timothy 6:6**.
  - o Imagine if you were happy to sacrifice because you knew the blessing was coming? Great gain!!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!