



**JUNE 4TH - SEPTEMBER 3RD**

**Week 8 - Megan Freedman**

**July 23-28**

**READING PLAN - WEEK 8**

- DAY 1 • JOHN 10:1-21
- DAY 2 • JOHN 10:22-41
- DAY 3 • JOHN 11:1-16
- DAY 4 • JOHN 11:17-44
- DAY 5 • JOHN 11:45-57

**Gospel of John • Week 8, Day 1**

**John 10:1-21**

In Chapter Ten Jesus uses the words sheep and shepherd at least 29 times.

When I read this I think to myself, ‘What’s the matter with you guys? How many times and in how many different ways does he have to say it? Haven’t you been listening?’

When my kids were little I had Superhero senses. I could hear their, 'Mama', on the playground over and above any other sound. No jet flying over, or jackhammer across the street or thumping bass from a passing car was able to compete with their sweet request. I find that my ability to hear is invariably dependent upon my desire to listen.

Jesus tells us that He is the Good Shepherd. His sheep hear His voice. He calls them by name and leads them. He prophesies about, ‘other sheep’ that are not of this fold but are nevertheless His. They will hear His voice and all His sheep will become one flock with one shepherd. I read this and know He is speaking of me, to me, a Gentile.

He tells us that as a good shepherd He lays down His life for His sheep. Verse 8 “No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on my own initiative.”

So, my own words come back to me, “What’s the matter with you? How many times and in how many ways does He have to say it? Haven’t you been listening?”

**Gospel of John • Week 8, Day 2**

**John 10:22-41**

The Jews then gathered around Him and were saying to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ then tell us plainly.” Jesus answered, I did tell you, but you didn’t believe me.

In today’s modern English we have so many phrases that seem to speak of ‘truthiness’. ‘To tell you the truth’, ‘To be honest with you’, ‘Truth be told’. My friend Don jokes by asking, “Umm, am I to assume that up until this point you have been deceiving me and I can’t trust you?”

Jesus himself often began a sentence with, “I tell you the truth...”. The truth is, we don’t always want to know the truth.

Did they ask Him if He was the Christ because they had been eagerly awaiting the coming of the Messiah or because they wanted Him to say it out loud so they would be justified in stoning Him ?

When I ask God to search my heart and see if there be any wicked way in me, am I hoping He wasn’t paying attention even though I know He is Omniscient? Am I counting on Him being busy with bigger issues in a galaxy far, far away when I know absolutely that He is Emmanuel, God with us?

Lord, give us the strength to truthfully ask you to show us the truth.

## Gospel of John · Week 8, Day 3

### John 11:1-16

"Jesus loved Martha and her sister Mary, and Lazarus." (*Verse 5*) We know from chapter three that God loves the whole world. He sent His son Jesus for us, we know He loves us. But when John writes this it reads more like pals, buddies, BFFs.

I admit my jealousy. Can you imagine what it would be like to hang out with Jesus, to be in His community group, to share leftovers, maybe eat something He made in His Crockpot?

John tells us in verse three that Mary and Martha sent a note to Jesus that simply said, "Lord, the one you love is sick". Jesus knew they meant Lazarus.

Imagine meeting with these three siblings in their home; Martha lighting the candles and decorating the mantle with something seasonal so it felt like home to Him, Mary sidling up right next to Him and wiping His feet with her hair. Did they tease Him with Nathaniel's words about nothing good coming from Nazareth? Did they hear the slight change in His voice when He talked about raising the temple in three days, sensing something foreboding and ominous on the horizon?

I desire this affectionate intimacy with my Jesus. I want to know Him. I want to be more and more comfortable in His presence. When He gets a note that says, "Lord, the one you love is sick", I want Him to know immediately who they're talking about.

## Gospel of John · Week 8, Day 4

### John 11:17-44

I am a crier. I cry at Folger's commercials (the good ones), when babies are born, at funerals, (even if I didn't know the deceased). I cry when I'm sad, when I'm happy, when I'm angry, when I see someone else cry. Sometimes I try to hold it in with little success. I have been asking the Lord to help me to not cry so much. It's not that I am embarrassed, but when I want to get my point across I am frustrated when my crying produces all vowels and no consonants.

The shortest verse in the bible. John 11:35 Jesus wept. John tells us that Jesus was deeply moved in spirit and troubled when He saw Mary and the others weeping because Lazarus had died. He already knew the happy ending. He had already said that Lazarus would rise again and that his sickness would not end in death. Yet, He was so moved by their sorrow, greatly moved to tears.

Jesus, God and man. All God and All man. What a crazy concept. If you lived at the time He walked the earth I can see how it may be easier to believe the 'man' part and harder to wrap your head around the 'God' part. Today, maybe it's just the opposite. We're willing to accept the God, but was He actually a toddler who fell down while learning to walk? Did He ever have acne? Did He sweat?

My brother died and I miss him every day. It has crossed my mind that Jesus could call him forth from the grave as He did to Lazarus. He was dead and Jesus made him alive.

What could be more human than weeping at your friend's death? What could be more God than overpowering death? He is our personal, mighty Savior.

## Gospel of John · Week 8, Day 5

### John 11:45-57

I have read Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. I have seen the stage production and I have watched Zeffirelli's beautiful film several times. I know the outcome. I know the tragic end, but every time I see the messenger riding to deliver the letter to Romeo that lets him know that Juliet has taken fake poison I am sure that this time he'll make it. For sure he'll be able to prevent the whole crazy mess.

We read in verses 49-53 that Caiaphas, the high priest, states it is better for one man to die for the people than that a whole nation perish. John makes it clear that the high priest did not say this of his own accord but was prophesying. So from that day on they plotted to take His life. (*Verse 53*)

I read in verse 55 that it was almost time for the Jewish Passover and I slow down and my stomach turns a little. I glance at chapter 12 and I skim through the next page. Oh, this isn't just another Passover, it's that one. It is this Seder that will come to be known as The Last Supper.

Why can't someone put the brakes on? Maybe if we sent someone they respect to speak up on His behalf... Maybe this time He won't have to die.

But I know He will and I know He did and instead of the Father preventing it, in love and through His incredible mercy, He allowed His son to redeem the whole crazy mess.