

## Follow the Leader.

### ■ John 10:27

"The sheep that are My own hear and are listening to My voice; and I know them, and they follow Me."

AMP



### Questions...

- ◆ "Who are you following?"
- ◆ "Who are listening to?"
- ◆ "How well do you know your Leader?"

*Again, these are good questions to ask of ourselves. We have so many voices in our lives; so many influences that if we don't stop every now & then and re-evaluate our situations, we may not notice if we are off-track. This is all about perception. If we are not in close relationship to God, we will not perceive correctly.*

*"Perception is not always accurate, but it sure seems convincing!"*

*A friend told me once that someone looked at her funny. What I mean is, this person had a look of disgust on their face and it was apparently directed right at my friend who was totally stumped by it. As far as she knew, there was no reason for the offense so... she asked the person about it. (Ha! What a concept, eh?!) Guess what the person said to her. There was no issue toward her, but there was an issue. Are you ready for it... it was gas. Yup, she had pain in her stomach and thus the look on her face. Don't always trust 'perception'.*

### 1. What is your perception based on?

*Have you ever wondered why there are different reactions to God? Some people seem so free to be around Him, while others walk in a state of silence & fearful reverence. Some are so quick to trust, while others need more convincing. I know for myself that when I forget who God is, I quickly lose the right perspective. I am so prone to a fearful stance that it is embarrassing to me. Let's have a look at an example of different views that Jesus gave us:*

### ■ Matthew 25:14-30

#### ■ 'Master, you entrusted ...' (see verses 20, 22)

- ◆ Recognized that this was the Master they were talking to.
- ◆ They understood He was 'entrusting' them with His money (commended, taken into custody, trusted)
  - *When someone is entrusting you, you know that they believe in you. They are willing to take a chance on you*

- shows you've got relationship (trust & respect grows with time ... quality comes from quantity)
- the one entrusting you believes that you will act as they do (that you've learnt from them, respect them, & will deal with their property in the same manner that they would, or even better)

### ■ 'I was **afraid** ...' (see verses 24-25)

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- ◆ He also recognized that this was a master, but had a totally different view of Him than the other two.
  - he was terrified of God (fearful reverence)
  - didn't trust His motives
- ◆ He viewed God to be a 'hard man', possibly selfish & lazy 'reaping where He did not sew'. Here's what the Message Bible says:

*24-25 "The servant given one thousand said, 'Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.'*
- ◆ If you notice, this is who God gave the least amount to. Could it be that He, knowing the outcome, had hoped that somehow this person might finally get a revelation of who He was? ...just a thought.

### ■ Now? What does this mean for us today?

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*We need God-inspired perception. This is only possible through revelation knowledge of who God is.*

*Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice, I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27)*

- ◆ Jesus is talking about **life patterns** here (such as: habits, traditions, goals & pursuits).
- ◆ He is also talking about **relationship**. We could simply obey Him; grudgingly. Or, we could serve (listen & follow) because we love His ways and understand His heart toward us.

*Here's an interesting quote from the book, 'For this Cause' by Brian Houston:*

*In life, you will have loyal friends, neutral acquaintances and possibly a few enemies. The way human nature would order relationships would be friends as the high ground, neutral acquaintances in the middle, and enemies as the lowest ground. But look at it this way: your loyal friends will stick with you in times of adversity, and support you in times of trouble. You may know who your enemies are, but there is no point in losing sleep over them. Even your enemies cannot ultimately hurt you, but a disloyal friend can.*

*During his prison term, PTL founder Jim Bakker was asked if he had lost any friends. His answer was profound: "No," he said, "I simply found out who my friends really were."<sup>1</sup>*

Jesus said, "No longer do I call you servants (slaves), for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends (an associate, companion) for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

■ **This is much more than following a party leader or boss. This is family and friendship; being part of the cause and understanding & buying into it wholeheartedly. This is covenant relationship at the deepest level is exactly what we are made for!**

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## 2. What did Jesus say?

*Look up the following scriptures & briefly tell us what Jesus had to say about He & His Father.*

■ **John 10:22-30**

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■ **John 3:16**

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■ **John 8:54-55**

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■ **John 14:6-11**

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■ **John 14:23-24**

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■ **John 15:13**

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■ **John 17:3**

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■ **John 17:25-26**

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### 3. Who Done It?

#### ■ Bible Times

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*Give an example from scripture that shows the heart of God to His creation.*

*Genesis 3 – God's love for Adam & Eve*

*vs 9 – He wanted to be with them*

*vs 14-19 – He disciplined them*

*vs 20 – He still allowed them to be themselves. He did not take destiny away from them*

*vs 21 – He served them. He guarded their dignity even though their shame was discovered through sin / disobedience*

*vs 22-24 – He protected them from themselves*

#### ■ Our Time

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*Can you think of someone from today that reflects the above concept? Write a brief account of their testimony / life that illustrates the above.*

*Bruce – when he told his mother in one sentence that he was:*

*-quitting College*

*-marrying me*

*-going to Israel*

***For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.***

***"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.***

***Isaiah 55:8-9***

### 4. What will I do with this lesson?

#### ■ List an action plan for this week below:

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