

Gospel According to John 10:17 – 39

New American Standard Version

¹⁷“For this reason the **Father** loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.” ¹⁹A **division** occurred again among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰Many of them were saying, “He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?” ²¹Others were saying, “These are not the sayings of one demon-possessed. A demon cannot **open the eyes of the blind** can he?” ²²At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; ²³it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴The 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.” ²⁵Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me. ²⁶But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹My 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. ³⁰I and the Father are one.” ³¹The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. ³²Jesus answered them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?” ³³The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out *to be* God.” ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I SAID, YOU ARE GODS’? ³⁵If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), ³⁶do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? ³⁷If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.” ³⁹Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp.

From suggestions on the back page add your own **Observation, Interpretation, and Application.**

Before you start, read Psalm 82.

Observation (What does it say?):

Circle all Jesus’ references to the **Father**

Underline the **Jews’ reactions** to Jesus.

Box references to **Jesus’ works**

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Jesus said, “I told you” in v. 25. How had He previously answered them (cf. John 5:36, 8:58).

Why did the Jews react so strongly? How did Jesus answer them from Scripture?

- What is His view of Scripture?
- How does Psalm 82 relate to His claims?

Consider Jesus’ words about Himself and the Father in v. 30 and the end of v. 38. How are these statements similar? How are they different? How do they relate to John 8:58 (“before Abraham was, I AM”)?

What does it mean to “believe the works” (v. 38)? How is that belief a substitute for “believe Me” in that verse? What is the goal of that belief, according to that verse?

How does Jesus connect His relationship with the Father and His relationship with His sheep?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

How much is Jesus’ relationship to the Father a part of your thinking? What difference does the Trinity make to your daily faith (we’ll get to the Spirit in a few chapters)?

How might a growing view of God’s Triune nature grow your faith?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage (repetition, comparisons, contrasts, cause and effect, unusual words, etc.)? Mark the passage (underline, circles, etc.) to help bring out the writer’s thought process.

- Who are the people involved?
- What is the action taking place?
- What type of literature is the passage (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are there any unusual words used?
- Is there any symbolic or figurative language used?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Is there any repetition of words or ideas?
- Are there comparisons or contrasts?
- Are there indications of cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Does the passage contain any explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts of the passage that would help you **interpret** the writer’s meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

How does the writer’s meaning relate to your life? What specific application might the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

If there is ever a blurring of the process to the extent that the various phases [Observation, Interpretation, Application] of study become indistinguishable, then eisegesis will inevitably result.

Robert Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*