

A Conversation of Provision

Lesson Three

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.

The words that I speak to you are Spirit; they are life. ~John 6:63

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Introduction **Provision:** the action of supplying something for use; to supply food or drink or equipment for a journey; to set aside an amount in case of a liability or sudden need

Our Lesson's Tour around Israel Capernaum; Nazareth; Tabgtha; Bethlehem; Temple (Sheep's Gate)

Scripture Reading: John 6: 27-35

Jesus' Conversations and Teaching—Jewish Thoughts

Synagogue at Capernaum **Jesus heals the Centurion's servant.** ~Matthew 8:5-13

I tell you the truth; I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. (NIV)

Feeding of the 5,000 in Tabgha: ~Matthew 14:14-20

Jesus is teaching the disciples (and us) regarding His provision, even with limited resources.

Synagogue in Capernaum ~John 6:26-48

Jesus teaches that He is the Bread of Life: "I am where you go to find the Bread of Life— eternal life. I will fill you. I will fill your life. I will satisfy you like nothing else can— spiritually, eternally, and presently."

Locations: Bethlehem: Church of the Nativity; Shepherd's Cave

Jesus: The Good Shepherd (John 10:1-16)

Healing the Blind Beggar: The Sheep Gate (John 9): Explains the shepherd metaphor to follow in John 10: The eyes of the blind man were opened to Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who enters by the door and leads His sheep to salvation (vs. 1-5). *"Most assuredly, I say to you. He who does not enter the sheep fold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber."* Jesus is saying: "The religious leaders are the thieves and robbers, and I am come to claim my sheep."

There is a difference in the way we raise sheep in the West from what is done in the East. In the West, we drive sheep. In the East, we lead sheep . . . no fences, just trusting the shepherd, for they know his voice. To know his voice is to be constantly reassured of the shepherd's presence and care for the sheep, evidence of his faithfulness and affection.

I AM the door of the sheep. He is describing the entrance or gateway to the sheepfold. Through Him we go in and out and find pasture. The door in which you go in is to find rest for your souls and the door to go out is where you find nourishment and pasture for your daily needs. Jesus shows that the life of the sheep, whether coming in or going out, is always through Him. The closer we are to the shepherd, the more rest and feel secure.

The thief does not come except to steal and to kill and to destroy. John 10a We are reminded of the difference between the Good Shepherd and the enemy [Satan] who does not care for your soul and only shackles your life with things and thoughts that destroy you.

The Good Shepherd manifests the works of God. *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.* ~John 10:10b His life transforms us and His love softens us as we know Him and hear His voice.

Conclusion: Conversations with Jesus as our provision.

- Provision of eternal life by faith in Jesus Christ: Centurion's Faith in Christ
- Provision of His power in our lives: Feeding of 5,000
- Provision of His life: Jesus is the Bread of Life
- Provision of our salvation through Christ: Our Good Shepherd

Lesson Four: A Conversation of Miracles

Locations: The Sea of Galilee; Hippos (Area of the Decapolis); Capernaum

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