

Title: Goodnight Midnight - John 10:1-21

Read:

²²⁻²⁴They were celebrating Hanukkah just then in Jerusalem. It was winter. Jesus was strolling in the Temple across Solomon's Porch. The Jews, circling him, said, "How long are you going to keep us guessing? If you're the Messiah, tell us straight out." ²⁵⁻³⁰Jesus answered, "I told you, but you don't believe. Everything I have done has been authorized by my Father, actions that speak louder than words. You don't believe because you're not my sheep. My sheep recognize my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them real and eternal life. They are protected from the Destroyer for good. No one can steal them from out of my hand. The Father who put them under my care is so much greater than the Destroyer and Thief. No one could ever get them away from him. I and the Father are one heart and mind." ³¹⁻³²Again the Jews picked up rocks to throw at him. Jesus said, "I have made a present to you from the Father of a great many good actions. For which of these acts do you stone me?"

³³The Jews said, "We're not stoning you for anything good you did, but for what you said—this blasphemy of calling yourself God." ³⁴⁻³⁸Jesus said, "I'm only quoting your inspired Scriptures, where God said, 'I tell you—you are gods.' If God called your ancestors 'gods'—and Scripture doesn't lie—why do you yell, 'Blasphemer! Blasphemer!' at the unique One the Father consecrated and sent into the world, just because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If I don't do the things my Father does, well and good; don't believe me. But if I am doing them, put aside for a moment what you hear me say about myself and just take the evidence of the actions that are right before your eyes. Then perhaps things will come together for you, and you'll see that not only are we doing the same thing, we are the same—Father and Son. He is in me; I am in him." ³⁹⁻⁴²They tried yet again to arrest him, but he slipped through their fingers. He went back across the Jordan to the place where John first baptized, and stayed there. A lot of people followed him over. They were saying, "John did no miracles, but everything he said about this man has come true." Many believed in him then and there.

Think:

Sometimes you hear Christians blame the Devil for all sorts of things. The Devil made me do this, the Devil made me do that. The Devil made me swear at my teacher. The Devil tempted me to get drunk. The Devil must be pretty busy, if he actually does all the things we suggest he does. Actually, a lot of what we blame the Devil for, is simply us stuffing up. Don't misunderstand me, I certainly do believe the Devil exists and tempts people, after all the Bible says he does. But I am not entirely sure that he or his minions have enough free time to worry about me or you 24/7. We shouldn't use that as an excuse to laugh and poke the Devil, because he is very real. But we also need to understand that the Devil has limited power and time. He isn't everywhere like God is. He can't create from nothing, like God can, and best of all, he has already lost. Jesus, in this passage, tells us that God can defend us from the Devil. But not only that, the Devil lost the battle, when Jesus died on the cross, for you and me. And his time is running out, because when Jesus returns, it's goodnight midnight for the Devil.

Pray:

Father, thank you, that you protect me. Please Lord, help me see when it is myself, when things go wrong and I am to blame. Lord, I also ask for your continued protection, when I am under attack from the Destroyer. Amen.

Action:

How is it going, with your list of friends that you pray to come to know Jesus? Grab your list and pray for them today. No list? Grab a pen and paper and make one now. Bye.