

COMMUNION SERIES ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS, OUR GOOD SHEPHERD
John 10:1-18

After the healed blind man was excommunicated, Jesus sought him and affirmed his faith, then gave this somewhat lengthy discourse. Some of the figures of speech He used might be incomprehensible to us, but they were familiar to His listeners then. Jesus was contrasting Himself to false shepherds and hirelings who didn't love the flock, didn't feed the flock and instead fed on the flock.

Why should you follow the Good Shepherd, when a world out there claims they have something far better than the One you have built your whole life upon?

**1. JESUS' LIFE AND WORDS PROVE HIM TO BE THE TRUE SHEPHERD,
THAT TRUE BELIEVERS FOLLOW (John 10:1-5)**

The True Shepherd is known by His sheep; but best of all He knows each one personally and leads them. Your God is a personal God. And everyone else besides Him is a "thief and robber".

- It's not how much you know, but Who you know. The Pharisees knew far more theology than the man born blind, but they didn't know the True Shepherd. The blind man knew Jesus as his shepherd. Do you? (John 17:3)
- Because Moses, the Psalms, and the prophets all testify to Jesus (Luke 24:27, 44), Christians should be reading and studying the Old Testament.

**2. JESUS IS THE ONLY DOOR, AND GIVES ABUNDANT LIFE TO
ALL WHO ENTER THROUGH HIM (John 10:6-10).**

When you enter through Jesus as the door, you gain things that eye has not seen and ear has not heard, which have not entered into the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Cor. 2:9). The abundant life that Jesus gives consists in having God Himself as our portion, both now and forever.

- Should you ever be tempted by the Prosperity Gospel ("with enough faith, you'll be healthy and wealthy") read Heb. 11:33-39.

- Following Jesus may result in more trials and persecution. The writer of Psalm 73 said he experienced more trials ever since he followed God. He looked at the wicked seemingly prospering and thought “Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure . . .”(73:13). But God answered him when he worshiped in the sanctuary: the wicked would come into judgment; and about himself – “My heart and my flesh may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever” (73:26). Many times God will bring you to a point where God is all you have, so that you’ll find out in the best way, that God is all you need.

3. JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD WHO GIVES HIS LIFE FOR HIS FLOCK, AND IT IS FOOLISH NOT TO FOLLOW HIM (John 10:11-18)

Jesus not only gives life to His flock, He gave His life for His flock. His flock was in danger and Jesus laid down His life by choice. Not only was He not a victim; the empty grave would prove Him a victor! This is the One you are following.

- Beware of shepherd wannabe’s who do not really love the flock. Not only does the Bible condemn them strongly (Ezek. Ch. 34) but you must do everything to avoid them or their influence (Acts 20:28-31; 1 John 2:19-20).
- The local church should be open to all kinds of people, and all kinds of sinners. Much is lost if we build the church around people just like us. The church is not a museum for saints, but a hospital for sinners; and training barracks for soldiers of the gospel.

Final Thoughts:

No matter what it costs, a true believer follows Christ and builds his/her life around His life and words – “His sheep follow Him because they know His voice” (v. 4). This is why you must be vigilant about false shepherds who preach their own thoughts for gain, numbers or fame.

Build your life on the Bible, because the value you give to the Lord of the Word is shown by the value you put on the Word of the Lord.