

“The Gospel of John: The Good Shepherd”

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August 13th, 2023

Scripture

John 10:1-21

“Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.** But **he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep.** "To him the doorkeeper opens, and **the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.** "When he puts forth all his own, **he goes ahead of them,** and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. "A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers." This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.

So, Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep.** "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

"I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

"He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, **sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees,** and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. "He flees because he is a hired hand and is **not concerned about the sheep.**

"I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

"I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.

"For this reason the Father loves Me, **because I lay down My life** so that I may take it again. "No 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."

A **division occurred again** among the Jews because of these words. Many of them were saying, "He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?" Others were saying, "These are not the sayings of one demon-possessed. A demon cannot open the eyes of the blind, can he?"

Last Week

Jesus interacting with the Jews

Arguing over blindness -> the Jews ask if they are blind – Jesus says they are!

John 10 continues the conversation with the same group

This Week

Two More I AMs out of the Seven

- The Door
- The Good Shepherd

Do you remember the first few "I AM" statements?

John 6:35 -> I AM the Bread of Life – after feeding the 5,000

John 8:12 -> I AM the Light of the World – on the last day of the great feast when the pillars were lit

A Picture of a True Shepherd

John 10:1-6

"Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.** But **he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep.** "To him the doorkeeper opens, and **the sheep hear his voice,** and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. "When he puts forth all his own, **he goes ahead of them,** and the sheep follow him because **they know his voice.** "A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers." This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them."

The Jews would have known all about Shepherding – A common occupation -> **David was an Expert**

Different cultures shepherd differently – Western shepherds lead from behind or the side

Six things of notice in this picture:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. He Enters <u>in Transparency</u> not Misdirection -> | " he who enters by the door " |
| 2. The Sheep <u>Hear His Voice</u> -> | " the sheep hear his voice " |
| 3. He Calls the Sheep <u>by Name</u> -> | " <u>he calls his own sheep by name</u> " |
| 4. He <u>Leads the Sheep Out from in Front</u> -> | " <u>leads them out - he goes ahead of them</u> " |
| 5. The Sheep <u>Know His Voice</u> -> | " they know his voice " |
| 6. The Sheep <u>Follow Him</u> -> | " <u>A stranger they simply will not follow</u> " |

Jesus's Application to Himself

I AM the Door

John 10:7-8

"So, Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep.** "All who came before Me **are thieves and robbers,** but the sheep did not hear them."

Jesus does not go through the door – **He IS the Door**

What does it mean that He IS the Door?

He is not like a thief, coming in disguise or with subterfuge -> **False shepherds of Ezekiel 34**

He is not like a false teacher:

Matthew 7:15

“Beware of the false prophets, **who come to you in sheep's clothing**, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

Jude 4

“For certain persons **have crept in unnoticed**, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”

You don't have to search hard for Him -> He is readily available to you

It's an open invitation:

Isaiah 55:1-3

“Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost. "Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance. "Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, according to the faithful mercies shown to David.”

Prison ministry -> “What's the Catch?”

No such thing as a free lunch!

Too good to be true?

John 10:9-10

“**I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved**, and will go in and out and find pasture. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**”

The door to Eternal Life

“**he will be saved**” -> that means **rescued from danger or peril**

“will go in and out and find pasture” -> that means **peace, security, and spiritual nourishment**

“**I came that they may have life and have it abundantly**” -> “continuously” have life -> **life now and continuing**

Abundant – *perissos* -> "all-around, excess" – way more than is ever needed

Eternal life is all encompassing – ever fulfilling – ever refreshing – ever in excess

I AM the Good Shepherd

John 10:11-13

“**I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.** "He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, **sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees**, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. "He flees because he is a hired hand and is **not concerned about the sheep.**”

The good shepherd is not like the hired hand -> good meaning “noble” -> **not doing it for His benefit**

The hired hand works for money

The hired hand lacks true commitment

1 Peter 5:1-3

“Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and **not for sordid gain**, but with eagerness; **nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge**, but **proving to be examples to the flock.**”

Be an example shepherd, Geoffrey!

The good shepherd is not afraid of a wolf

Isn't it interesting that none of the disciples ever came to harm while Jesus was around?

John 17:12

“While I was with them, **I was keeping them in Your name** which You have given Me; and **I guarded them** and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”

“guarded” -> “to protect with personal interest”

He never leaves the sheep alone:

Deuteronomy 31:8 (for protection)

“And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, **He will not leave you nor forsake you**; do not fear nor be dismayed.”

Hebrews 13:5 (for daily needs)

“Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, **NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU**”

Matthew 6:33 (for complete provision)

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

He is concerned about the sheep

The Gentile Shepherd

John 10:16

“**I have other sheep, which are not of this fold**; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.”

Not a Mormon reference

Not just Jews in the Kingdom

Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to **everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.**”

“they will hear My voice” -> **future** tense - **No Gentile believers yet in the Kingdom when Jesus said this, right?**

“they will become one flock with one shepherd.” -> One flock under one Great Shepherd – **One faith, One Lord**

What is the greatest act of a true shepherd?

The Greatest Act of a Good Shepherd

John 10:14-15

“**I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me**, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and **I lay down My life for the sheep.**”

“**I know My own**” -> Know the Sheep personally

“**My own know Me**” -> Reveals Himself to the Sheep

Matthew 11:27

“All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and **anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.**”

“**I lay down My life for the sheep**” -> Willing to Sacrifice Himself for the Sheep

Jesus continues:

John 10:17-18

“For this reason the Father loves Me, **because I lay down My life** so that I may take it again. "No 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.”

The Father's love for the Son is centered on the Son's willingness to be a Sacrifice

“I lay it down on My own initiative” -> Jesus has resurrection authority -> **John 11** with Lazarus

More Division

John 10:19-21

“A **division occurred again** among the Jews because of these words. Many of them were saying, "**He has a demon and is insane.** Why do you listen to Him?" Others were saying, "These are not the sayings of one demon-possessed. **A demon cannot open the eyes of the blind, can he?**”

Application to Me as a Shepherd

Application to You as Sheep:

Where are you with Jesus?

Do you hear His voice?

Are you willing to follow Him?

Commitment Prayer

Benediction