

Is Jesus Your Good Shepherd?

John 10:1-21 ¹ “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.” ¹⁹ There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰ Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” ²¹ Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

❖ Introduction

- This particular section of scripture is specifically for the hearer today
- Jesus words those two thousand years ago are pointing directly to us hear today...
- He was speaking to a Jewish people then, but says something interesting in the middle of his conversation
 - ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.
 - So He is talking about people not of the Jewish nation... and I would say not just of that time frame... let me prove that to you
 - You ask... why is that so important...
 - I believe that although you may think you know Jesus was talking about you all the way back then....
 - It is important to see it clearly... I tis important for you to realize today that these are not just words..
 - That this book is irrefutably relevant for you today...
 - Here is more proof... from John 17
 - So in 17 Jesus is praying for His disciples... and they can hear Him praying for them...
 - ◆ And he prays hard for them and earnestly...
 - ◆ Then He prays something interesting... He prays
 - John 17:20 ²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
 - ◆ So Jesus speaks of another fold besides the Jewish fold, and then He prays for believers that will believe through the word of His 12 disciples....
 - ◆ And we know that all saved people have their origin in the work of those 12 and others...

- So... please take this personal today... Take it very personal...
- To understand it we must...

❖ **Looking Back at Ch. 9**

- This section in Ch. 10 through vs 21 is an extension of his dialogue in ch. 9
- It is based off of his healing of the blind man and his back and forth with those there
 - That he launches in to this figure of speech about being the Good Shepherd
 - So, the blind man healed is a picture or the picture we see in chapter 10 of Jesus calling his sheep
- Remember back in Ch 9
 - He sees the man born blind
 - Disciples see and wonder why he was blind
 - Jesus says it was so the works of God might be displayed in Him
 - Jesus makes the mud with his spit and places it on his eyes...
 - He is then healed....
 - His neighbors are like... whoa... that cant be him.... But it is...
 - So how did this happen they ask, and he says this man name Jesus...
 - REMEMBER the transition this man takes in his knowledge of who Jesus is...
 - That is what is important here...
 - The neighbors go get the Pharisees...
 - Come to find out Jesus did this on the Sabbath so they are not happy
 - They ask him how it happened... they call him a sinner... man says he is a prophet
 - They call in the parents cause they don't believe it... Parents say he is old enough... ask him
 - They ask him again... and he says I already told you... you didn't listen...
 - Says it is an amazing thing that a man born blind now sees...
 - They cast him out of the synagogue
 - Jesus finds him... asks him... Do you believe in the Son of Man...
 - The man says.. who is he that I may believe on Him... and Jesus says it is Himself
 - The man says... Lord I do believe, and worshipped
 - Jesus then says he came that those who do not see will see and those who see may be blind
 - Then the Pharisees ask him, are we also blind...
 - Jesus says If you were blind you would have not guilt
 - But now that you say We see, you guilt remains...
- Immediately after this we see Jesus begin His figure of speech... about being the shepherd
 - And He is explaining what is going on behind the scenes of people coming to Him...
 - He essentially is saying... He has sheep... and when He speaks.. they will hear Him...
 - And others will not...
 - Think about that... Then ask yourself... Have you heard Him... and if you say yes... Did you follow Him...
 - Lets look at ch. 10

❖ **Another Intro....**

- There is a lot going on in these 21 verses...
 - I hope you understand the whole idea of sheep and shepherds and coming into their pen and a gate or door for the pen... Jesus is using something they understood very well to explain His relationship to man...
 - So I have tried to narrow it down to three things that Jesus is trying to explain to the hearers...
 - And in some of these points there is some redundancy that you will see
 - #1 There is Danger

- For all men and their path through life on their way to the afterlife, there is danger
- #2 Jesus Explains Who He is
- #3 The Good Shepherd's Sheep Respond
 - Within these three points there are several other truths Jesus wants us to see...
 - ◆ So, that is how you make a long sermon look short...
 - ◆ Narrow it down to three points but have more points inside those three...

❖ #1 There is Danger

- We have Strangers, thieves, robbers and wolves
- ¹ he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber.
- A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”
- ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.
- ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
- ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.
- **There are False Shepherds...**
 - Climb in another way other than through the door...
 - We see Jesus says He is the door...
 - So they climb in another way... and they probably tell people there is another way to get into the fold of God other than through Jesus...
 - It seems like He is speaking of the Pharisees hear...
 - And they had turned things upside down acting like they knew the way to heaven...
 - But they were wrong
 - And this continues even to this day...
 - Jesus calls them thieves and robbers...
- **There are strangers...**
 - But Jesus says the sheep will not follow the strangers voice...
 - **EXAMPLE: My Dad and his new Herford cattle**
 - Now... let me say this... just because the sheep won't listen doesn't stop the strangers from calling does it...
 - And there are millions who get sucked into the strangers fold...
 - Do not let that be you...
 - His sheep will know something is wrong...
- **There are those that want to destroy believers**
 - Jesus says they come only to steal kill and destroy...
 - They do not mean good for the sheep...
 - Satan is behind all of this...
 - Satan wants to steal you away from God... He would like to kill and destroy your spiritual walk...
 - And He will try this even with the sheep of God...
 - He hates the sheep of God... He hates His followers...
 - He wants to destroy you and your witness...
 - And what do we do...
 - We go along nonchalantly acting like there are no dangers...
 - And we do not spend time in prayer like we should or in His holy word like we should
 - We are ill prepared when the thief comes to destroy us...
- **Lastly we see there are Wolves**

- Now, we understand this clearly... these are enemies of the sheep...
 - Sometimes they look like wolves, and sometimes the wolf slips into his sheep costume
 - But none the less they are wolves
- Wolves seek to devour the sheep...
 - So the sheep must stay within the safety of the fold under the watch of the shepherd...
- He talks about these hired hands that flee...
 - These are unfaithful overseers of the flock...
 - These are those that are afraid when danger comes, or can not see it...
 - They do not care to watch over the flock if it means they will be at risk...
 - They are not like David who killed the Lion and the Bear when they came against his fathers flock...
- **Application:**
 - Be on the lookout... Satan is behind all of this... He will use whatever means necessary to destroy you...
 - He tries to you use temptations, false teachers and false doctrines, he threatens us with death...
 - But we are to stand firm, and stay within the flock, stay under the protection of the shepherd...

❖ #2 Jesus Explains Who He is

- 1) He is the door
 - ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.
 - ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.
- 2) He will bring out all His own
 - ⁴ When he has brought out all his own,
- 3) He will go before them
 - he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.
 - The Shepherd goes before the sheep to make sure there is no harm waiting them...
 - He has went before us in death and conquered it and cleared the way for His sheep
- 4) He came to give them abundant Life
 - ¹⁰ I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
- 5) He is the Good Shepherd
 - ¹¹ I am the good shepherd.
- 6) He Knows His Sheep
 - ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,
 - ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father
- 7) Gives His Life for His Sheep
 - ¹¹ The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
 - ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.
- 8) Takes His Life Back Again with Authority
 - ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

❖ #3 The Good Shepherd’s Sheep Respond

- 1) Hear the voice of their Shepherd
 - ³ The sheep hear his voice,
 - ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.
- 2) Follow the Shepherd
 - ⁴ and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.
- 3) Do not follow a stranger

- ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”
- ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.
- 4) They come through the door to be saved
 - ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.
- 5) Receive Abundant Life
 - ¹¹ I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
- 6) Are Saved by the Shepherds Life
 - ¹⁵ and I lay down my life for the sheep.
- 7) They are known by the Shepherd
 - ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,
- 8) They know the Shepherd
 - ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

❖ Who is Jesus to you?

- There was division about who He is...
 - ¹⁹ There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰ Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” ²¹ Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”
- Is there division within you?