

John – Chapter 10

The Good Shepherd

Concerning the Shepherd, not the Sheep

The Scribes and Pharisees took offense in chapter 9 that they should be called blind (9:40-41). They threw out the man that Christ had cured of blindness (9:11) from the Synagogue (9:34) just for speaking favorably of him (9:30-33). They called Christ a sinner (9:24) an impostor (Mt 27:63) and a deceiver (Jn 7:47) and essentially named themselves the shepherds of the flock: the guides (Mt 23:16, 24) and rulers of the people (Jn 7:48; Mk 5:22, 35). But only God is the Shepherd of his flock (Ps 23:1; 80:1; Isa 40:11; 63:11), or his Messiah (Ez 34:23).

This is what led to this parable. Its purpose is to show that Christ is the one true shepherd who was appointed, called, and sent by God. He shepherds his own sheep who hear and know his voice and follow him. By contrast, the Scribes and Pharisees were thieves and robbers. They are not shepherds of the flock; they were not sent by God; and they did not come into their positions through Christ, but by another way. As such, they usurped their positions.¹ Moreover, they will reject Jesus as the Messiah (Jn 19:15), just as his brothers rejected Joseph (Gen 37:8), the elected leaders of the assembly rejected Moses (Num 16:1-32), and the people rejected God as their king, desiring instead to have a king like the other nations (1Sam 8:1-7).

Joh 10:1 "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.

Joh 10:2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

Joh 10:3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.²

Joh 10:4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

Joh 10:5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

The Shepherd:

The one who enters wrongly:

Enters the <i>sheepfold</i> by the <i>door</i>	Climbs into the sheepfold by another way
Shepherd of the sheep	Thief and robber
The <i>gatekeeper</i> opens to him	?
Calls his <i>own</i> sheep <i>by name</i>	?
They hear his voice	?
He leads them out ³	?
He goes before them	?
The sheep follow him	The sheep flee from him
They know his voice	The do not know a stranger's voice

¹ There are a number of Scripture warnings about false prophets, shepherds, and watchmen: Isa 56:10-12; Eze 34:2-5; Zec 11:4, Zec 11:5, Zec 11:16, Zec 11:17; Rom 16:18; 2Co 11:13-15; Tit 1:11; 2Pe 2:3, 2Pe 2:14-19

² See Num 27:16-17 – this is the key to defining "sheepfold"

³ The WEB reads, "Whenever he brings out his own sheep..." This slightly different translation reflects the Textus Receptus and Majority Text.

Joh 10:6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Joh 10:7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

Joh 10:8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.

Joh 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Joh 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.⁴ I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Joh 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Joh 10:12 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.

Joh 10:13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

Joh 10:14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

Joh 10:15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Joh 10:16 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.

Joh 10:17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.

Joh 10:18 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."

The Good Shepherd:

Each who came before:

I am the <i>door</i> of the sheep	Thief and robber
[the sheep hear their Shepherd]	The sheep do not hear him
Whoever enters <i>by the door</i> will be saved	Steal, kill, destroy
Whoever enters will go in and out	?
Whoever enters will find pasture	?
Came to give abundant life	?
He lays down his life for the sheep	?
He [owns] the sheep (10:3)	He is a hired hand
Has other sheepfold(s) which form one flock	?
They too hear his voice	?
The Father loves him for his sacrifice	?
He both lays down his life and takes it up again	?
He volunteers his life by God's authority	?
He takes up his life again by God's authority	?
He received this charge from his Father [God]	?

Joh 10:19 There was again a division among the Jews because of these words.

Joh 10:20 Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?"

Joh 10:21 Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

Two months later...

Joh 10:22 At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter,⁵

Joh 10:23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. [see Acts 3:11]

Joh 10:24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

⁴ The word for "destroy" means to be lost, perish (like a fruit that rots), or to render useless.

⁵ This refers to Hannukah. The Book of Maccabees (1Macc 4:36-61) tells us that the Syrians, under Antiochus Ehipanes IV, took hold of the temple at Jerusalem and sacrificed a pig on the altar, known as the "abomination that desecrates" (or "desolates"). They set up false idols to be worshipped by the Jews. When Jerusalem was regained by the Maccabees, they purified the temple. This is the celebration of that event.

Joh 10:25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me,
 Joh 10:26 but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock.
 Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
 Joh 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.
 Joh 10:29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.
 Joh 10:30 I and the Father are one."

The Sheep:

The Goats [Matt 25:32-33⁶]:

Believe [because they are part of his flock]	Don't believe because they are not part of the flock
Hear Christ's voice	[Cannot hear Christ's voice]
Christ knows them	[Christ does not know them] (Mat 7:22-23)
They follow him	[They do not follow him]
He gives them eternal life	[He does not give them eternal life]
They will never perish	[They will perish]
No one snatches them of his hand [because...]	[They are not in his hand because...]
The Father has given them to him	[The Father did not give them to him]
No one snatches them out of the Father's hand	[They are not the Father's] (Jn 8:44)

Joh 10:31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone him.
 Joh 10:32 Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?"
 Joh 10:33 The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."
 Joh 10:34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'? ⁷
 Joh 10:35 If he called them gods to whom the word of God came--and Scripture cannot be broken--
 Joh 10:36 do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"
 Joh 10:37 If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me;
 Joh 10:38 but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."
 Joh 10:39 Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.
 Joh 10:40 He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained.
 Joh 10:41 And many came to him. And they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true."
 Joh 10:42 And many believed in him there.

Who consecrated Jesus as the Christ? _____ (v 36)

The purpose of Christ's works? (v 38) _____

⁶ 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'
⁷ Ps 82:6