

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bibles with me to John 10

We are continuing our verse by verse study through the gospel of John

And we are in the portion of the Gospel of John where he records for us this amazing allegory that Jesus gives us regarding the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep.

I provided a background on tools that the shepherd would use to gather, to lead and even to correct his sheep.

And one of the things I pointed out is that sheep are dependent upon their shepherd – without their shepherd, they would die of starvation, without their shepherd, they would become an easy meal for the predators, without their shepherd, the sheep would get into all sorts of trouble.

Now in the first ten verses, Jesus made a contrast between Himself, the True Shepherd – and the ones who come to steal and hurt the sheep

And I made the point that Jesus was referring to all the false Messiah's that had come before Him and after Him but also the religious rulers who were standing there among the people.

And one of the distinguishing marks of the True Shepherd is that He enters the sheepfold through the door –

Who is the door? Jesus – it was a point He made twice (vs 7,9)

Moses, Abraham, John the Baptist, the Prophets of the Old Testament – they all pointed to the door.

Not only is He the door that provides protection, He is the exclusive door to salvation – there is no other way.

He is the only one who provides eternal security and safety for those whose faith resides in Him.

And if that is not good enough – He also gives us abundant life – He leads us to pasture.

In our text this morning, Jesus is going to continue to provide a contrast between Himself (True Shepherd) and the false shepherds that only come to steal and hurt the sheep.

You might remember last week that at first, the crowd didn't understand what Jesus was saying –

So here He is expounding upon what He already stated –

He is providing more examples to the allegory He provided.

Let's pray...

[Jhn 10:11-21 NKJV] 11 "**I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.**

So here in verse 11 – we have the next “I AM” statement in the Gospel of John.

I AM the Bread of Life (John 6)

I AM the Light of the World (John 8)

I AM the Door (last week – He said it twice)

I AM the Good Shepherd.

Again, Jesus is saying – I AM (*ego eimi* – the translation of God's name - Yahweh)

Now, notice – He says, I am the good shepherd – He doesn't say, I am a good shepherd.

He is not just claiming to be morally good (although it is true that He is good)

This is a claim to be the excellent, magnificent, outstanding, noble shepherd, the one that far exceeds all others.

And what sets Jesus apart as the good shepherd is His willingness to give/ to lay His life down for His sheep.

Turn with me 1 Sam 17

Here we have another example of a shepherd who was willing to give his life for his sheep - David

**[1Sa 17:33-36 NKJV] 33 And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you [are] a youth, and he a man of war from his youth." 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, 35 "I went out after it and struck it, and delivered [the lamb] from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught [it] by its beard, and struck and killed it. 36 "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine (Goliath) will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."**

David, before he was king – he understood what a good shepherd was.

This is what makes Jesus the “good” shepherd.

He gave His life for us.

We were caught in the jaws – not of a lion but in the jaws of our own sin, and He gave up His life so we could be freed from the penalty of our sin.

**[Isa 53:5-6 NKJV] 5 But He [was] wounded for our transgressions, [He was] bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace [was] upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have**

**turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

If it was not for the Good Shepherd laying His life for us, we would die and eternal damnation would be ours.

But, because the Good Shepherd lays His life down for His sheep, we will be saved.

Church, this is the essence of the gospel.

As much as we embrace verse 10 – where Jesus, our True Shepherd promises us abundant life – verse 10 is not the essence of the gospel – it is the result of the gospel.

**The essence of the gospel is not what Jesus will do for us, it is what Jesus has already done for us, when He died for our sins.**

The essence of the gospel is that Jesus bore the wrath of God we deserved, our sins past, present, and future are forgiven in totality.

And the reason I point this out is there are a lot of sermons being taught from the pulpit where the focus is on verse 10 – “what can Jesus do for me?” instead of what He already did.

There are a lot of individuals whose spiritual foundation is built on verse 10 –

“You mean if I become a Christian – my problems will go away?”

And when they get fired from their job or they lose a loved one – they become disillusioned because Jesus said I would have abundant life – what happened?

Church, our response to the gospel is based on verse 11

How do we know that Jesus is the Good Shepherd that is worthy of being trusted?

How do we know (as Paul writes to us in Rom 10:9) that if we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in our heart that God has raised Him from the dead, we will be saved.

We know this by His willingness to give His life for His sheep.

The amazing thing church – as we read Jesus making this statement -

Is that Jesus what was going to happen in a few months -

As He walked the roads with His disciples, He knew that one day He would die a horrible death.

He went to the cross because He loved us so much that He was willing to do whatever it took to save us from our sins.

**[Rom 5:8 NKJV] 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

This is why He came –

This is why He is the Good Shepherd

The Abundant life based on what He gives us after we are saved, our abundant life is found in following the Good Shepherd.

Now, Jesus is going to provide a contrast – He wants to continue to make His point and He is going to tell us what a hireling does.

**12 "But a hireling, [he who is] not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 "The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.**

A hireling is like a sheep babysitter -

While the Good Shepherd kept His watchful eyes on His sheep, while the Good Shepherd is willing to lay His life for the good of His sheep –

The hireling would spend their time on their cell phone instead of watching the sheep.

The hireling, as soon as he saw a wolf or a lion come after the flock of sheep – he would run the other way and the sheep would either become a meal or would scatter.

Why?

Because they are not his sheep, he doesn't have a vested interest in the sheep.

The only reason that he is watching the sheep is because he is getting paid.

The church needs under shepherds (pastors) who are going to follow Jesus' example – not hirelings.

Now, I believe that Jesus provides for us a wonderful application for all of us here.

One of the things we have to ask ourselves is why do we serve one another?

Because if we serve one another because we are only after some recognition or because we are pursuing a gold star – if that is the case, we are hirelings.

And the first sign of trouble – we are out the door.

The Good Shepherd is not going to flee because He has a vested interest in His sheep

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**14 "I am the good shepherd; and I know My [sheep], and am known by My own.**

**15 "As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.**

Because the shepherd spends so much time with his sheep, He gets to know them real well.

I had you make a note of the word “know”

Because Jesus actually uses the same Greek word in all 4 occasions here in verses

14,15

This knowledge is not a reference to an intellectual knowledge

It is in reference to a personal knowledge – it speaks of relationship.

Jesus knows us.

He knows us by name.

Not the name that we were given to by our parents -

He knows us by our real name, the one assigned to us by the Creator.

Just as the shepherd gave names to the sheep of His flock based on His knowledge of them, God has given us a name that is more than just a label to call us by. (Rev 2:17)

It's a description of who we are in His eternal plan.

Rev. 2:17 tells us about this new name that will be revealed to us when we step into the glory of heaven.

We read there that God will give us a white stone on which our new name is written.

We'll take a look at that name, & realize in that instant all that God created us to be & do.

Everything about our lives here that was a mystery – it will fall into place.

Not only does Jesus know us, as the sheep know their shepherd, so we know ours.

But what sheep know their shepherd best?

Those that stay closest to Him.

Not only does Jesus know us intimately and perfectly – in fact, we can agree that He knows us better than we know ourselves.

In fact, in Luke 12 – Jesus tells us that He knows us so intimately and He loves us so much that the numbers of hairs on our head are all numbered.

My wife loves me – I don't think she knows the number of hairs on my head – and I make it pretty easy for her.

He knows us –

And here is the thing church

No one would dare to presume that we know Him to the same degree He knows us.

But as we look to verse 15

Jesus says that the knowledge He has of the Father is on the same level as the Father's knowledge of Him.

Church, Jesus is once again making an announcement of His deity in this statement.

**16 "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock [and] one shepherd.**

We must remember that Jesus here is speaking to the Jews and the religious rulers.

And when Jesus refers to this fold – this sheepfold – He is referring to the covenant that God made with them through the Law of Moses.

So, Him saying that he has sheep that are not of this fold is a reference to the Gentile Christians who would become a part of God's people in Acts.

It's a reference to you and me.

The Gospel / the Good News will tear down the old distinctions between Jew & Gentile so that the only distinction will be between the lost & the saved – between those who accepted His free gift of salvation and those who rejected it.

**17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."**

Jesus did not die because God was mad at him.

The cross was an act of love, not hate.

The whole purpose of Jesus coming into this world was for him to lay his life down for his sheep.

It was God's plan before the foundation of the world.

Which means that the cross was plan A – not B

The cross was God's predetermined act of love.

Jesus's death was not an accident or fate.

It was calculated and planned.

In a few months, when we get to John 18 – when Jesus is arrested, John doesn't tell us that as He was arrested, Jesus went kicking and screaming.

He laid down His own life.

Now, remember – Jesus is speaking to some of the religious rulers who have already determined in their heart that they are going to kill Jesus

No one is going to take my life – I am laying it down willfully

It wasn't Herod's fault, it wasn't Pontius Pilate's fault, it wasn't the Sanhedrin's fault it wasn't the Jews fault, Jesus orchestrated the events that led to His death.

The Shepherd became a Sheep so that we sheep might know our Shepherd.

So, here's the beauty of the gospel: Jesus's death was not the end of the story.

He laid his life down for his sheep, yes. But, three days later he rose from the grave.

Verse 18 tells us that He possessed the authority to lay his life down on his own accord, and he possessed the authority to take it up again.

**This is the hope of the gospel!**

If Christ is not risen, then our faith is futile and we are still in our sins.

But, Jesus is risen! Therefore, we have an eternal hope!

In laying down His life, Jesus became the Door through which we enter the fold.

In taking it up again by rising again, Jesus remains our Good Shepherd.

He continues to watch over us and guide us and lead us.

**19 Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. 20 And many of them said, "He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?" 21 Others said, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"**

There was division again among the Jews

We have seen this story before in the gospel of John.

We saw this back in John 7, at the Feast of Tabernacles when Jesus made the announcement that "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

Why does this keep happening?

Because Jesus came to bring division – period.

Church, we need to stop trying to make Jesus palatable to the world.

Because the world will never embrace Jesus / because the world loves the darkness.

Jesus said in our study last week – I am the Door

What does a door do?

It lets people in and it keeps people out.

He is the good shepherd.

He's not one of many good shepherds.

He is the good shepherd that is worth trusting, following and imitating.

His sacrificial death upon the cross is our only hope for abundant, eternal life.

But most importantly church – it is the defining picture of what we are called to live out as believers.

May we be a church that gives our time to help others, just like the good shepherd did for us.

May we be a church that sacrifices our resources to serve others, just like the good shepherd did for us.

May we be a church that does nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, just like the good shepherd did for us.

May we be a church that does all things in humility, counting others more significant than ourselves, just like the good shepherd did for us.

May we be a church that looks after the interest of others, just like the good shepherd did for us.

And just like the blind man who encountered Jesus outside the temple, may we be a church that worships the good shepherd who willingly laid his life down for us on the cross.

Amen

Let's pray...

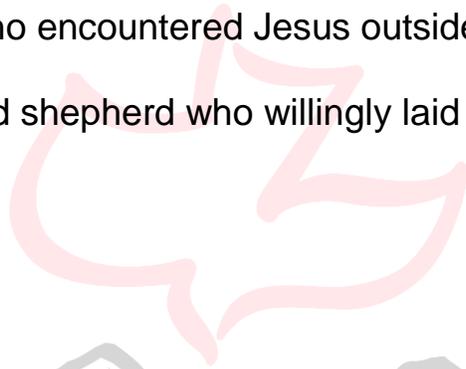
To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.



CALVARY  
Santa Cruz

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Church never forget –

Those who have received grace, extend grace.

Those who have received love, extend love.

Those who have received mercy, extend mercy.

Those who have experienced the gospel, live out the gospel.

This applies to every aspect of our life.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

