

“The Good Shepherd Discourse”

John 10:1-22

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Teaching Aim: To examine the contrast between the wicked shepherds in **John chapter 9** and “*The Good Shepherd*” of **chapter 10**. To understand, if you want to be the heavenly sheepfold, you must enter through the only door that gets you there - Jesus Christ. To recognize Jesus is the Good Shepherd; the Good Shepherd knows His sheep, His sheep know Him and follow Him. To understand sheep are not stupid, they are stubborn, just like us at times.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Beware of the thief and robber entering the sheepfold (John 10:1-6)

1. A remarkable miracle took place in **John 9:1-11**, nothing like it had ever occurred in human history. As Jesus passed by, He saw a man who had been born blind. His disciples asked Him if the blindness was caused by his sin or the sin of his parents? Jesus said neither, “*but that the works of God should be revealed in him.*” Jesus then performed a miracle that had never been done before, He healed a man who had been born blind. How did the religious leaders react to this miracle? (See **John 9:16**) Why?

2. Frightened by the corruption of the religious leaders, the healed man’s parents would not even testify on his behalf, they responded, “*He is of age, ask him.*” The Pharisees confronted the healed man and wanted him to turn on Jesus; the grateful man would not. What did the Pharisees do to the man as a result? (See **John 9:34**) How serious was excommunicated to a Jew? Note: **Chapter 9** is a commentary on evil shepherds (bad religious leaders) which lays the groundwork for “*The Good Shepherd Discourse*” of **chapter 10**.

3. Warren Wiersbe writes, “*The sheepfold was usually an enclosure made of rocks, with an opening for the door. The shepherd (or a porter) would guard the flock, or flocks, at night by lying across the opening. It was not unusual for several flocks to be sheltered together in the same fold. In the morning, the shepherds would come, call their sheep, and assemble their own flocks. Each sheep recognized his own master’s voice...the sheep follow the voice of their own shepherd.*” What do we learn from **verse 1** about a shepherd who enters the sheepfold any other way than through the door? Note: The door in this metaphor represents Jesus and the sheepfold represents Israel; it would later be expanded to include the entire Church.

4. The true shepherd of the sheep comes and goes through the door of the sheepfold (**vs. 2**). In this case, Jesus came to the door exactly as Scripture had prophesied. What are some of the specific Messianic prophecies that predicted the coming of Christ? (See **Isa. 7:14; Mic. 5:2; 1 Kings 8:25**)

5. What can we learn about a good shepherd from **verse 3**? Is there a problem if people are afraid of their religious leaders? Why should this be a huge red flag?

6. The true shepherd will not drive his sheep, he will lead them. What do we learn about the relationship of a good shepherd and his sheep in **verse 4**? How should the sheep of a good shepherd react to the voice of a stranger (or false teacher) (**vs. 5**)? Why? How do we learn the voice of our Shepherd (Jesus) today so that we will know the difference between true doctrine (teaching) and false?

7. Did the people listening to Jesus understand what He was saying (**vs. 6**)? If not, why not? (See **Matthew 13:13**) Why do your unbelieving family members and friends not understand the things of God like you do? (See **2 Cor. 4:3-4; John 3:3**)

Part II: Jesus is the door to the heavenly sheepfold (John 10:7-13)

1. Whenever Jesus said, "Verily, verily" or "Most assuredly I say to you," an important message was coming. What important teaching did Jesus bring in **verse 7**? What did He mean by this? (See **John 14:6**) Edwin A. Blum writes, "*When evening settled over the land of Palestine, danger lurked. In Bible times lions, wolves, jackals, panthers, leopards, bears, and hyenas were common in the countryside. The life of a shepherd could be dangerous as illustrated by David's fight with at least one lion and one bear.*" What can we learn about the danger of shepherding from **1 Sam. 17:34-37**? What kind of threats do Christian shepherds (or pastors) face today?

2. What can we learn about Jesus' role in shepherding from the following verses? (See **Heb. 13:20-21; 1 Pet. 5:2-4**) What unusual role do we find the Lamb taking in **Rev. 7:16-17**?

3. What did Jesus call the false shepherds in **verse 8**? Did the true followers of Yahweh (or the LORD) in the Old Testament follow the false teachers or stand against them? According to **Ezek. 34:1-2**, what is one characteristic of a false shepherd?

4. For a second time, Jesus said, "*I am the door.*" What does Jesus promise all who enter by this door (**vs. 9**)? There is only one way to get into the heavenly sheepfold, what is it? (See **John 14:6**) Is this door a wide one or a narrow entry? (See **Matt. 7:13-14**)

5. Have you ever had something stolen from you? How did it feel? What can we learn about the motive of a thief from **verse 10**? How did this illustration apply to the false Jewish religious leaders? Surprisingly, the religious leaders kicked the healed man in **chapter 9** out the door of the synagogue and possibly Judaism, they excommunicated Him for "*not*" betraying Jesus. How was the door Jesus presented different? (See **John 9:35-38**)

6. What title did Jesus give to Himself in **verse 11**? Note: This is the fourth of seven "*I Am*" statements found in the Gospel of John. How was the Good Shepherd who gives life to His sheep different from the wicked Pharisees? (See **John 5:18; 7:19; 8:37, 40**) It is important to note Jesus willingly laid down His life for His sheep. Why? (See **John 3:16**)

7. How can we expect the hireling to act when danger comes (**vs. 12**)? What is the hired hand concerned about? Can you think of any recent examples of how this has been played out in the world? Why does the hireling flee like a coward while the owner has to stand (**vs. 13**)?

Part III: Jesus is the Good Shepherd of the sheep (John 10:14-21)

1. What truths do we learn about the Good Shepherd in **verse 14**? How many great men in the Old Testament were shepherds? Why did God choose to train them for leadership this way? Who are some of your all-time favorite pastors? What characteristics made them special?

2. Christ's sheep are a love gift from the Father to Him; Jesus will eventually give them back to His Father. (See **1 Cor. 15:28**) Why did Christ come to earth (**vs. 15**)? (See **John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24**) How would you explain the love of Christ to a child?

3. What other group of sheep was Jesus referring to in **verse 16**? What does this mean for you? How do you think the religious leaders would have responded if they had realized what Jesus was saying? What do we call believing Jews and believing Gentiles today?

4. Jesus was obedient to His Father in everything, even to the point of death on the cross. (See **Phil. 2:5-11**) What do we learn about the death and resurrection of Jesus in **verse 17**? What can we learn about the deity of Jesus Christ and the involvement of the Trinity in His resurrection (**vv. 17 & 18**)? (See **Acts 2:32; 3:15; 4:10; Gal. 1:1; Rom. 8:10-11**)

5. Did the Jewish religious leaders and Roman's kill Jesus (**vs. 18**)? Who gave up His own life? What kind of power did Jesus possess? Who did Jesus get this power from? Note: It is important for us to realize that Christ was not a victim, His death (or atoning sacrifice) on the cross was voluntary. He did it for us. Jesus voluntarily paid the penalty for our sin.

6. When Jesus finished speaking, we find division amongst the Jews once again. It seems like everywhere Jesus went there was division. What did Jesus mean in **Matt. 10:37-39**? What did many of the Jews accuse Jesus of in **verse 20**? Was this something new or something that Jesus regularly heard? (See **John 7:20; 8:48, 52**)

7. Not everyone agreed with this accusation. Many who witnessed the miracle had a different opinion. What did they say (**vs. 21**)? What made the opening of the blind man's eyes so special? (See **Isa. 35:5-6a**) It is impossible to stay neutral when it comes to Jesus, we either believe in Him as Lord or we do not. Where do you stand with Jesus?

8. Perhaps the most famous Psalm in the Bible is about the Good Shepherd and His sheep. Read the **Psalm 23** through the first time observing the personal pronouns (I, me, my) and how personal this Psalm is to the believer. Then read the Psalm through a second time and look for what God does for you during the difficulties of life.

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Beware of false shepherds who work their way into the Church, they are wolves in sheep's clothing looking.
- False religious leaders (or false shepherds) come with the intent to steal and kill, Jesus came and secured eternal life for His sheep.
- The Good Shepherd knows His sheep and His sheep know Him; no one will be able to snatch them out of His hand. (See **John 10:27-28**)
- The Good Shepherd's flock is made up of believing Jews and believing Gentiles, we call this family the Church.
- Jesus had power to lay down His life and power to raise it back up again in the resurrection; as the resurrected Lord, He now provides eternal life to those who believe in Him.
- Jesus causes division wherever He goes, there is no neutral ground, you either believe Jesus is Lord or you do not.