

THE SHEPHERD AND THE SHEEP

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John 10:1-21

1. There are a number of references in the Bible that speak of Jesus as a shepherd.
 - a. In the passage we just read Jesus declared, “I am the **good shepherd**; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” 11
 - b. In Hebrews 13:20 Jesus is referred to as the great Shepherd of the sheep who rose again from the dead.
NOTE: Hebrews 7:23-25 declares, “The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, 24 but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. 25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”
 - c. Peter declared, “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, 2 **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; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. 4 And when the **Chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.” 1 Peter 5:1-4
NOTE: In Ephesians 4:11 Paul declared that Christ gave to the Church Pastor-Teachers. The word “pastor” literally means “shepherd pastor.” Many churches hire a preacher instead of calling a pastor because various church leaders, and sometimes the church body, have usurped the role of the pastor.
2. Jesus’ listeners may not have fully understood all that He was trying to teach them, but they could identify with the analogies He used.
3. Jesus referred to the normal daily procedure of the shepherds of that day and culture.
4. He had in mind the summer-fold that consisted of a corral-like structure with no roof or gate.
5. Those who owned sheep would keep their flock in this community fold at night.
6. Each night, one of them would sleep in the opening to keep the sheep in while keeping predators and thieves out.
7. Each morning the shepherd/doorkeeper would allow each shepherd to enter the fold and call for his sheep.
8. The sheep would recognize and respond to the voice of their shepherd.
9. As each man’s sheep departed the fold he would stand in the opening and count and inspect his sheep.
10. He would then lead them out to pasture for the day.
11. Since they were his sheep he would provide for and protect them throughout the day.
12. At night he would bring them back to the fold, and again count and inspect them as they entered.

I. The Good Shepherd.

- A. Jesus declared Himself to be the Door of the sheep. 7, 9
 1. Apart from Him there would be no flock and no access into God’s fold.
 2. Jesus told Thomas, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” John 14:6

3. Speaking of Jesus, Peter declared, "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:12

4. It is through Jesus Christ that we come into the presence of God, and live for the glory of God and the good of others.

B. Jesus came that His sheep might have life, and might have it abundantly. 10

NOTE: Jesus not only saves, He also sanctifies, sustains, and satisfies.

C. Jesus laid down and took up His life for the sheep. 11, 17-18

D. Jesus knows, and is known by, His sheep. 2-5, 14-15

1. He calls His sheep by name.

2. He is intimately acquainted with and committed to each one of His sheep.

E. Jesus protects and provides for His sheep.

F. Jesus leads His sheep in and out.

NOTE: If we are following Him, He is going to lead us into a committed relationship with a local church, and He is going to lead us out into the world to represent Him.

II. The sheep.

A. The sheep belong to the Shepherd. (Anyone who has anything to do with the sheep needs to keep this reality in mind. 29)

B. The sheep have entered through the Door of the Sheep. 7-10

C. The sheep recognize and respond to the voice of the Shepherd. 4

NOTE: The blind man, we read about in chapter nine, responded to Jesus' voice because he was one of His sheep, while the other people in the chapter did not respond because they were not of His sheep. See 10:25-30

D. The sheep recognize and refuse to follow strangers. 5

E. The sheep follow the Shepherd in and out, and find pasture.

1. Sheep get fed properly and are protected when they faithfully follow the Shepherd.

2. God provides for those who seek after, and follow Him. Matthew 6:31-33

"Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' 32 "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 "But seek **first** His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

F. The sheep are a varied and diverse flock. James 2:1

My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism.

III. The enemies of the sheep.

A. Jesus spoke of thieves and robbers who come only to steal and kill and destroy. 1, 10

NOTE: Here Jesus is speaking of false christs, or those who want access to the sheep that they might exploit them.

B. Jesus also spoke of strangers, or those who were not known by the sheep.

C. Jesus mentioned hired hands (hirelings), who were charged with the care of the sheep while not really caring about the sheep.

1. True shepherds lead the sheep, love the sheep and lay down their lives for the sheep.

2. Shepherders drive the sheep, see them as a means to an end, and exploit them to their own advantage.

D. Finally, Jesus mentioned the wolf, or the Devil, who desires to devour, disturb, and divide the sheep.

APPLICATION

1. Those who have truly entered through the Door, the Lord Jesus Christ, are going to look to Him, listen to Him, and be led by Him.
2. They are going to take the Word of God seriously.
3. They are going to be filled with the Holy Spirit, they are going to walk by the Holy Spirit, and they are going to manifest the fruit of the Spirit.
4. They are also going to be part of a local flock of sheep who are under the care of a pastor/teacher and hopefully not a hireling.