

A person wearing a blue robe is walking on water, with their feet visible and creating splashes. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon. The overall mood is serene and spiritual.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

PART TWENTY-SEVEN

The Word Made Flesh



JOHN 10:11-21

1. The Abundant Life (revisited)

a. The meaning of abundance has to do with a life of a certain kind as opposed to a degree of life

b. It is the promise of understanding what true life is and the promise of its quality



c. The term used by Jesus (περισσὸν) for abundant can mean 'excessive' or 'extreme', but here the sense is best understood as providing a distinct advantage (Louw-Nida Lexicon)

d. Application- Jesus promises not just to offer existence or preservation of life, but a life that has been given meaning in the truest sense, which is the ultimate advantage provided by eternal life.



e. You may question (at times) what God wants you to specifically do in life, but you are never questioning whether or not your life is worth living.

f. D.A. Carson notes that Jesus doesn't just offer long life (everlasting), but a life filled with purpose.



2. The Good Shepherd (vv.11-21)

a. This is the fourth of Jesus' formal I AM statements that further reveal his character

b. This is also where his parable or illustration (if you prefer) breaks down, because in his analogy he is both the Door and the Shepherd—both access and caretaker



c. Note: Jesus does not want us to see him as a shepherd but the standard for shepherding, thus the language used expresses him as the shepherd par excellence.

i. Ezek 34:11-16

d. What is the litmus test for a good shepherd? laying down his life for the sheep--meaning the shepherd places himself between any danger and the sheep for their protection



e. Jesus' statement goes beyond analogy here, as the language of substitution is used--he makes a theological statement by predicting his death

f. On the other hand, hired hands don't have this commitment (vv.12-13)

i. They have nothing invested, so if the sheep don't make it, oh well



ii. They leave the sheep exposed

iii. Who is Jesus comparing himself to again?

iv. So in essence, they care nothing for the sheep, but only about themselves



h. The mutual relationship of the shepherd and sheep is reemphasized (vv.14-15)

i. There is an understanding of interdependence--as the shepherd is interested in the best welfare of the sheep, and the sheep don't have much of a future without the shepherd.



i. Jesus gives a vision of future ministry (vv.16-18)

i. Jesus look toward bringing in Gentiles--outsiders who are not currently a part of Israel (Eph 2:14-17)

ii. Jesus claims authority over his own life; he is the only one who is granted license to do this--all others speak falsely--it's my life, I'll do as I please.



DQs:

1. What is Jesus communicating about himself as the Door?
2. What does he say about himself as the Good Shepherd?
3. What does abundant life signify in John 10:10?

