



“Enjoying the Abundant Life of Jesus: Loving Life”

John 10:1-24

Introduction: Here’s what it was like shepherding sheep in Israel back in Jesus’ day:

- There were two different types of sheepfolds...one in the village...and one in the country
- John 10:1-5 is about the sheepfold in the village.
- John 10:7-10 is about the sheepfold in the country.

1. The first sheepfold (vv. 1-6)

John 10:1-3 – “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.”

The sheep

Psalms 23:1 – “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...”

Galatians 4:4 – “But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law.”

John 10:4 – “When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.”

Psalms 23:2 – “He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.”

2. The second sheepfold (vv. 7-24)

John 10:7 – “So Jesus said to them again, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.’”

The Door

John 10:8-9 – “All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

John 14:6 – “Jesus said, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.’”

John 10:10 – “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

John 4:13-14 – “Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will thirst again; ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.’”

I am the Good Shepherd (vv.11-21)

Four truths about Jesus as the Good Shepherd...

1. The Good Shepherd dies for the sheep

John 10:11-13 – “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep.”

2. The Good Shepherd knows His sheep

John 10:14-17 – “I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, ¹⁵even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father, and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it up again.”

3. The Good Shepherd brings other sheep into the flock

John 10:16 – “...other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.”

4. The Good Shepherd takes up His life again

John 10:17-18 – “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”

Hebrews 7:25 – “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.”

John 10:19-21 – “A division occurred again among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰Many of them were saying, ‘He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?’ ²¹Others were saying, ‘These are not the sayings of one demon-possessed. A demon cannot open the eyes of the blind, can he?’”

The Feast of Dedication

John 10:22-24 – “At that time the Feast of Dedication took place in Jerusalem; ²³it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴The Jews then gathered around Him and were saying to Him, ‘How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.’”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is the difference between a shepherd and a hired hand (v.11-13). How does this apply?
2. What does it mean for the Good Shepherd to know His sheep “by name” (v.3)?
3. What does it look like for a believer to follow the voice of Jesus over other “voices”?
4. What does it mean that Jesus is both the “door” of the sheep and their shepherd (v.7-9)?
5. What kind of “life” does Jesus promise (v.10)?
6. What does it mean to be “saved” and “find pasture” (v.9)?
7. How can you grow to recognize and follow the Good Shepherd’s voice in your daily life?
8. How can you “enjoy the abundant life of Jesus” by following the Good Shepherd?
9. What’s the best way to avoid “thieves” and “strangers”?
10. Regarding spiritual leaders today, how can you be sure you’re following a shepherd?