

## For the Love of Sheep

### John 10:1-21

**vs. 1-5**, Jesus tells a parable. Jesus gave them this figure of speech (**vs. 6**).

The role of a Shepherd and the life of the sheep.

Is Jesus sent from God? Is Jesus the prophet greater than Moses?  
Is Jesus the Messiah (son of man) whom God will set as judge over the world?

Ezekiel 34

Hearing and recognizing the voice of the good shepherd.

**John 3:8** The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

**John 5:25** "Truly I tell you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

**John 5:37** The Father who sent me has himself testified about me. You have not heard his voice at any time, and you haven't seen his form.

Hearing Jesus -> knowing and recognizing God

**Question:** Are we more familiar with the voices of the world than the voice of Jesus?

The sign of a real king is the response of the people.

Jesus is using this parable to explain what is true about his identity.

**vs. 7-10**, I am the gate (door) for the sheep.

**Psalms 121:7-8** The Lord will protect you from all harm; he will protect your life. **8** The Lord will protect your coming and going both now and forever.

**Isaiah 40:11** He protects his flock like a shepherd; he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them in the fold of his garment. He gently leads those that are nursing.

Stark contrast between truth and falsehood.

<b>The Gate</b>	<b>Thieves</b>
Listening	Not listening
Salvation	Take advantage (steal)
Freedom	Slavery (kill)
Rest	Destruction
Life	
Abundance	

**Numbers 27:16-17** "May the Lord, the God who gives breath to all,[a] appoint a man over the community **17** who will go out before them and come back in before them, and who will bring them out and bring them in, so that the Lord's community won't be like sheep without a shepherd."

**vs. 11**, I am the good shepherd.  
A true shepherd isn't in it for their own selfish gain.

The ultimate test: A predator appears (a wolf).

How will the sheep be cared for?  
The true shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

The false shepherd runs away. He is only concerned with his personal safety.  
Sheep...what sheep? They are snatched and scattered (**vs. 12**).

Jesus gives us the reason and result of being sent by God.

**1:11-12** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name,

The sheep are in danger.  
The shepherd will lay down his life for the sheep.  
Jesus will die so that the sheep can live!

The Messiah is for all nations!  
There are more sheep (not from this sheep pen).

**Isaiah 49:6** "It is not enough for you to be my servant raising up the tribes of Jacob and restoring the protected ones of Israel. I will also make you a light for the nations, to be my salvation to the ends of the earth."

**vs. 14**, I know...my own know me... the Father knows me...I know the Father.  
*Genuine knowing* -> Intimacy, covenant relationship, indwelling, sharing in the divine relationship

Life long learning, growing, changing, embracing, understanding

- Jesus does what he see the Father doing (5:19).
- Jesus is always doing the things that please the Father (8:29).
- They share in mutual love (3:35, 5:20, 10:17, 15:9).
- This mutuality becomes the model for those who follow Jesus.

**vs. 17-18**, I lay down my life so that I may take it up again.  
**2 Corinthians 5:21** He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus is giving insight into the hope of resurrection.  
There is a bond between the shepherd and his sheep.  
It is the same bond that links the father and the son.

- The resurrection is the essential completion of the death of Jesus.
- The cross is necessary in part as a precursor to the resurrection.
- The cross is the choice of the shepherd and not the whim of his enemies.
- Jesus acts on behalf of the sheep to save them.

Who is the good shepherd? Is God the shepherd or is the Messiah the shepherd?  
The answer will be giving in 10:30.

**Ezekiel 34:23-24** I will establish over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will shepherd them. He will tend them himself and will be their shepherd. **24** I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David will be a prince among them. I, the Lord, have spoken.

**Good Shepherd** - emphasizes on the compelling power and faithfulness of his love.

**vs. 22**, The Festival of Dedication (Hanukkah). The setting up to this point from 7:1-10:18 has been the Festival of Tabernacles.

**Reflection:** Take time this week to process your relationship with Jesus. Is it a relationship of intimacy, deep knowing, mutual engagement? How does your faith grow beyond a historical fact?  
Yes, Jesus died..yes, Jesus conquered death. How does this historical fact impact your day to day?

What joy are you experiencing by living a covenant relationship with Jesus?