



1

Story of Harry Reeder sharing message at church that had gone from over 960 to 80 people . . . the Gospel message.

-- What do we imagine the response was?

-- His outline: Not what, when, that . . . but WHOM I have believed.

-- Belief in Jesus requires . . .

TR: This resurrection Sunday, we need to know . . .

**“I know whom I have
believed . . .”**

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

2

. . . in whom we have believed.

-- Who is Jesus calling you to believe?

-- He is inviting us to believe in Him, the Good and Noble Shepherd.

-- I yearn for us all to find His peace and to be able to lay down in His green pastures.

TR: In John 10, Jesus uses the His day's common sight of sheep and shepherds to teach about Who He is.

John 10:1-3

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

ESV

3

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

- The previous chapter dealt with the healing of the man born blind.
- It finished with Jesus penetrating statements about religious leaders who thought they could see but in reality were blind.
- Their guilt remained.
- It seems that the thieves and robbers Jesus is pointing to are these religious leaders who have labeled Him a sinner.

TR: But Jesus describes Himself as . . .

John 10:1-3

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. **2But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3To him the gatekeeper opens.** The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

ESV

4

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

- He is the legitimate shepherd.
- He doesn't need to sneak in but can go through the gate.
- Jesus probably has Ezekiel 34 in mind with its descriptions of bad shepherds who fleece the flock for their own benefit.

TR: Once Jesus has come into this enclosure, he calls out.

John 10:1-3

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. **The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.**

ESV

5

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

- It seems there is not just one flock in the enclosure.
- But the shepherd calls them out.
- He calls them not just with a distinctive whistle but calls them by name.

TR: He leads them out and . . .

John 10:4-6

When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

ESV

6

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

- These sheep belong to Him, they are His own.**
- These sheep are called out by name and now they follow the shepherd because they know His voice.**
- In Palestine, shepherds lead their flocks. They do not drive them with dogs as happens elsewhere.**

TR: The sheep follow the shepherd but not the thieves and robbers . . .

John 10:4-6

When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵**A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.** ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

ESV

7

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

TR: What Jesus just shared, John calls a . . .

John 10:4-6

When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶**This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.**

ESV

8

. . . figure of speech . . . READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

-- It is a word picture.

-- But THEY did not understand . . . THEY = the Pharisees who He was talking with.

-- Why did they not understand? Because they were not His sheep.

TR: This first figure of speech tells us that the Good Shepherd . . .

- **Calls us out . . . by name**

9

READ SLIDE

- Sheep are not the smartest of animals, so I've been told.
- As sheep, it is not our initiative to seek God, nor to find Him.
- It is the Good Shepherd's initiative to call us out of the mixed group within the larger combined flocks.
- His going first is not just a random offer to all, but a specific calling by name.

TR: Jesus then uses the shepherd/sheep imagery in another figure of speech. I don't think they happened as part of a linear thought-flow since the imagery is quite different at points.

John 10:7-8

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.

ESV

10

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

- This is one of the major differences: The shepherd in verses 1-2 goes through the door.
- Another difference is in verse 3 - there was another "gatekeeper," who was not the shepherd.

TR: But then verse 8 returns to the similar imagery of the thieves and robbers.

John 10:7-8

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. **⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.**

ESV

11

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

- This seems to refer not just to false teachers but seems to be hinting at false messiahs.
- But those who are God's sheep will not listen to them.

TR: Jesus then repeats that He is the door.

John 10:9-10

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

ESV

12

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

- In the earlier verses there was a door and a gatekeeper.
- Again here, Jesus is the door. Perhaps tied to the practice of some shepherds of sleeping at the gate and functioning as a door.
- Instead of calling them out, Jesus lets them in.
- This is not talking about calling out from a mixed flock but letting them into a flock that is **SAVED**.

TR: What are they saved from?

John 10:9-10

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. **¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**

ESV

13

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

- They are saved from the thief.**
- They won't be slaughtered and destroyed.**
- They will have the freedom to go in and out.**
- They will find pasture . . . the pasture of life that is abundant.**

TR: The Good, Noble Shepherd not only calls us out by name, He .

. .

- **Calls us out . . . by name**
- **Invites us in . . . to the salvation of abundant life**

14

READ SLIDE

TR: So far Jesus hasn't called Himself the Good Shepherd just the door. That changes in verse 11 . . .

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 does not own 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 cares nothing for the sheep.

ESV

15

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

- GOOD can also be translated NOBEL.**
- Jesus defines what this Good, Nobel Shepherd does . . . he lays down his life for the sheep.**
- This is going beyond virtually all actual shepherds. They may stand and fight the bear or lion, but they wouldn't give up their lives for the sheep.**

TR: Remember, this is a figure of speech. The contrast Jesus makes is between the good shepherd and the hireling.

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 does not own 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 cares nothing for the sheep.**

ESV

16

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

TR: The Good, Nobel Shepherd . . .

- **Calls us out . . . by name**
- **Invites us in . . . to the salvation of abundant life**
- **Lays down His life . . .**

17

READ SLIDE

TR: Who does Jesus lay down His life for?

John 10:14-15

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

ESV

18

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

- Jesus has said His sheep know His voice. They listen and follow Him.**
- His sheep know Him and He knows them.**
- This knowledge is as profound as the knowledge of God the Father and God the Son.**

TR: Jesus lays down His life . . .

- **Calls us out . . .** by name
- **Invites us in . . .** to the salvation of abundant life
- **Lays down His life . . .** for those who know Him

19

READ SLIDE

TR: Jesus then looks beyond the sheep of this fold.

John 10:16

And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

ESV

20

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

-- Other sheep seem to be looking beyond the sheep of Israel.

TR: So, whether Jews or Gentiles, the Good, Nobel Shepherd . . .

- **Calls us out . . .** by name
- **Invites us in . . .** to the salvation of abundant life
- **Lays down His life . . .** for those who know Him
- **Brings in other sheep . . .** into the one flock

21

READ SLIDE

TR: Expanding on the thought of the Father and Son, because the real question is, “In Whom have we believed?” we read in v. 17 . .

.

John 10:17-18

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

ESV

22

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

- The Father loves the Son's obedience to His plan.**
- He loves that the Son, Jesus, willingly lays down His life . . .**
- . . . so that He can take it up again.**

TR: Make no mistake, Jesus' death was not a martyr's death.

John 10:17-18

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. **¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.** I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

ESV

23

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

-- Not Pilate, not Herod, not the Sanhedrin, not the Pharisees, not Judas, not the fickle crowds . . . no one stole Jesus' life.

TR: He was not a victim Who had no power or authority.

John 10:17-18

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. **I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.** This charge I have received from my Father."

ESV

24

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

- His authority, as God the Son Who took on human flesh, was to lay down His life for the sheep.
- AND it was the authority to take up His life through the resurrection as the Victor.

TR: In all this . . .

John 10:17-18

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. **This charge I have received from my Father."**

ESV

25

. . . Jesus fulfilled the charge or commandment or order He received from the Father.

-- Salvation through Christ's death was not "cosmic child abuse" as some have said.

-- Jesus is God. He and the Father are One.

TR: The Good, Nobel Shepherd . . .

- **Calls us out . . .** by name
- **Invites us in . . .** to the salvation of abundant life
- **Lays down His life . . .** for those who know Him
- **Brings in other sheep . . .** into the one flock
- **Exercises authority . . .** to lay down & take up His life

26

READ SLIDE

- The question of “whom have I believed” is what we are wrestling with today.
- Who are you believing in to explain the meaning of life?
- Who are you believing in to help you understand why you so want there to be life after death?
- Who are you believing in to give you a sense of peace in the midst of life’s challenges?

TR: The blind Pharisees, the thieves and robbers, cannot really hear Jesus’ voice. The result is division.

John 10:19-21

There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?" ²¹Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

ESV

27

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

- Jesus is either LORD, LIAR, or LUNATIC.
- In the previous chapter they declared He must be a liar . . . at least they concluded He was a sinner.
- Here they think He must be insane or possessed.

TR: But others had heard what the man born blind had experienced. They said . . .

John 10:19-21

There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?" ²¹**Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"**

ESV

28

READ SLIDE HIGHLIGHT

TR: How does this account help us know . . .

**“I know whom I have
believed . . .”**

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

29

. . . in whom we have believed.

-- cf. comfort of the sight of His shepherd's staff

**-- cf. compliment of groom when he saw me walk into the
wedding rehearsal**

**TR: Why should we want to know this Good, Nobel Shepherd?
Not just know about Him but know Him so that we hear His voice
and follow Him?**

**When we know the Good Shepherd,
we will be at peace . . .**

- **with ourselves in **humility,****
- **with our circumstances in **contentment,****
- **with each other in **unity,****
- **with God with **assurance.****

30

**As I look at this text, I walk about knowing that . . . READ SLIDE . .
. assurance for our souls.**

-- The peace the OT calls SHALOM . . . wholeness, harmony.

**-- Don't you want peace with yourself, your circumstances, with
others, and with God?**

-- So many sheep allow thieves and robbers to steal their peace.

TR: Think through the passage from a negative point of view.

Thieves and robbers will seek to steal, kill, and destroy our . . .

➤ humility by telling us to not listen to the Shepherd's voice or to not rest in His calling.

31

READ SLIDE

- It may sound like something we need or want, but clinging to our pride will be the death of us.
- Pride steals our ability to hear God.
- Pride kills us by letting us imagine that we're something special in and of ourselves.
- Pride infects even the sheep who claim to follow the Shepherd by filling them with the worry that they won't be able to be good enough to be "a called one."

TR: If we aren't wary, we will find that . . .

Thieves and robbers will seek to steal, kill, and destroy our . . .

➤ contentment by telling us there are “better” pastures available right now!

32

READ SLIDE

- Jesus promised we could freely go in and out.
- He said we would have pasture. We would have life and have it abundantly.
- The false teachers and messiahs stir our discontent by saying the are better pastures . . . the myth of the greener grass.
- These crooks want to steal our hope by making us focus on only the now . . .
- . . . the **ABUNDANT LIFE** is all that Jesus gives us, not just what we get for these few short years on this earth.

TR: How many people’s peace has been stolen when burglars take our . . .

Thieves and robbers will seek to steal, kill, and destroy our . . .

➤ unity by telling us that there is no way “those kind” of sheep belong in our flock.

33

READ SLIDE

- Many of the Jews back then couldn't imagine God's Kingdom being for anyone but themselves.
- Today, we still find it uncomfortable that Jesus calls people, or should I say, sheep . . .
- . . . from outside of our “kind.”
- We may say foolish things like, “If they have to be SHEEP, they should have their own separate but equal flock of their own.”

TR: The one aspect of peace that most concerns me based on recent conversations with some folks is . . .

Thieves and robbers will seek to steal, kill, and destroy our . . .

- **assurance** by suggesting Jesus will run out on us when things get hard; OR by telling us that our assurance comes from our “works,” not His.

34

. . . that we would have our assurance stolen.

-- **READ SLIDE**

-- Life can get very hard . . . but Jesus is no hireling. He not in this merely for a paycheck. He will not run out on us.

-- How many Christians live in fear that they may not make it to heaven because their assurance has been stolen?

-- Even this week at a funeral I made clear that all of us will stand before the judgment seat of Christ. But that doesn't mean that our salvation comes from our works. Salvation comes only by belief in Jesus.

-- The evil one uses whispers of accusation to tell us that we're not good enough . . . and we aren't, in and of our selves.

-- But the Good, Noble Shepherd has laid down His life for us AND has taken it up again!

TR: Let's think this through one more time, from a positive vantage point.

**When we know the Good Shepherd,
we will be at peace . . .**

➤ with ourselves in **humility**

The peace of being “called ones.”

35

READ SLIDE

-- EX: Rock Story of “He sought me!”

TR: When we know the Good Shepherd, we will be at peace . . .

**When we know the Good Shepherd,
we will be at peace . . .**

➤ **with our circumstances in
contentment**

*The peace of abundant life:
now, and even more so, then!*

36

READ SLIDE

-- To know the Good Shepherd is to know abundant life. Now and Then!

-- As Satan beguiled Eve in the Garden with the lie that God really wasn't good . . . so He wants to steal our peace.

-- Cf. "This world is the best world to get us ready for the best world."

-- cf. my communication with a person facing a long jail term . . . confessed-up, walk in Spirit, and make the most.

TR: When we know the Good Shepherd, we will be at peace . . .

**When we know the Good Shepherd,
we will be at peace . . .**

➤ with each other in **unity**

*The peace of peaceableness,
knowing we are
One Flock with One Shepherd*

37

READ SLIDE

-- How much peace we lose by jealousy, envy, bitterness and strife.

-- As one sheep owner once told me, some sheep just like to drink from the stream and then intentionally muddy it with their feet so that the others won't drink.

TR: When we know the Good Shepherd, we will be at peace . . .

**When we know the Good Shepherd,
we will be at peace . . .**

➤ **with God with assurance**

*The peace of His promises.
He won't abandon us.
He loved us enough to die for us.
He has the authority to lay down &
take up His life again.*

38

READ SLIDE

**-- Do you hear the Good, Noble Shepherd calling you? If so,
won't you respond?**

TR: He is the door . . . the way into the flock of God.

Lord Jesus, I know I'm a sinner and I can't earn or deserve salvation. I believe You are the Good Shepherd Who laid down His life for me, the sacrifice for my salvation. I am convinced You took up your life again through the resurrection, proving You are God the Son, our Savior. I believe You are calling me to follow You. I entrust myself and my eternal destiny into Your faithful hands. Amen.

39

We respond to His voice when we pray something like this . . .

READ SLIDE

-- Cf. Harry Reeder's story of response . . . the choir director and deacon.

-- Is today the day you hear His voice and respond in humility?

-- Is today when you receive the assurance and contentment that will allow you to be at peace, even with your enemies?

TR: Is today the day you know the peace of being a sheep of the Good, Nobel Shepherd?

**“I know whom I have
believed . . .”**

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

40

**Is today the day you know that you know WHOM you have
believed.**

**TR: Thru the ages, people looking to the Messiah have said these
words . . . words for a time uncertainty . . .**

Psalm 23:1-3

**The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me lie down
in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.**

ESV

41

**Perhaps you will say them out loud in your homes with me . . .
READ SLIDE**

TR: Verse 4

Psalm 23:4

**Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

ESV

42

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 5

Psalm 23:5

**You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

ESV

43

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 6

Psalm 23:6

**Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house
of the LORD forever.**

ESV

44

READ SLIDE

- Is He calling you today?**
- If you have responded to his calling . . . don't let anyone steal your peace.**
- Peace that comes from the Good Shepherd Who had the authority to lay down His life and take it up again.**