THE GOSPEL OF — THE GO

"The Good Shepherd" (Part 1)

John 10:1-10

"You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them. So they were scattered because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them." **Ezekiel 34:3-6**

The Lord's accusations against Israel's false shepherds (Israel's religious leaders):

- You "use" the sheep to better your life and neglect your task as shepherd to feed the flock.
- You haven't taken care of the hurting, weak, and vulnerable, neither have you sought those who are lost.
- You have abused the flock by leading them in a cruel and harsh way causing them to be scattered and victimized.
- You didn't care about the flock by searching after them—no one sought after my abandoned lambs.

"For thus says the Lord God: "Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel.

There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down," says the Lord God. "I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment."

Ezekiel 34:11-16

"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the Lord. "But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the Lord.

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord,
"That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness;
A King shall reign and prosper,
And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.
In His days Judah will be saved,
And Israel will dwell safely;
Now this is His name by which He will be called:
THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." Jeremiah 23:1-6

3 Descriptions of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and Door of the sheep

- 1. The Good Shepherd enters the sheepfold by the door: Jesus is the true shepherd of God's people. (v.1-2)
 - 2. The Good Shepherd's <u>voice is heard</u> by His sheep: Those that know <u>Jesus' voice follow Him</u>. (v.3-6)

"Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." John 18:36-37

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

If anyone hears My voice and opens the door,

I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

Revelation 3:20

Whoever you listen to is who you follow.

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 - 2. The Good Shepherd's <u>voice is heard</u> by His sheep: Those that know <u>Jesus' voice follow Him</u>. (v.3-6)
- 3. The Good Shepherd <u>protects</u> and <u>provides</u> for His sheep: Jesus gives <u>abundant life</u> to those who <u>believe in Him</u>. (v.7-10)

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6

"The Greek word for 'abundance' (perissos) has a mathematical meaning and generally denotes a surplus...The abundant life is above all the contented life, based upon the fact that God is equal to every emergency and is able to supply all our needs in Christ Jesus." -James M. Boice

"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

"But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one."

2 Thessalonians 3:3