

John-22
“Whose Voice Are You Following?”
John 10:1–21 (NIV)

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a second and welcome our first-time guests and those of you who are watching online!

We’re walking through the Gospel of John and today we come to John chapter 10 where we’re faced with another question...**“Whose Voice Are You Following?”**

Pastor Mike reminded us last week in John 9 that Jesus:

- Sees our suffering and knows what we are going through, even when others overlook us.
- That not all suffering is caused by personal sin. Sometimes suffering comes from living

in a fallen world, spiritual attacks, or circumstances beyond our control.

- God can use suffering for His glory and our good, equipping us to help others, strengthening our faith, and sometimes correcting our path.
- Jesus still heals today and no one can take away your testimony.
- And that the greatest miracle in John 9 is not only physical sight but spiritual sight—recognizing who Jesus truly is.

Now as we get into John chapter 10, I want you to understand that this is one of the most intimate and yet one of the most confrontational passages Jesus ever spoke.

Because in this chapter, Jesus doesn't just teach theology...

- He reveals identity.
- He exposes deception.
- And He forces a decision.

Are you ready Church?

I know I'm skipping ahead but He says:

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27)

But before He gets there, He gives a warning... about thieves, strangers, and voices that sound spiritual—but are not sent by God.

PRAY

So let's get into the word: ***John 10:1-21***

So here's the question that rises from this text is simple, but heavy:

Whose voice are you following?

- Not just on Sunday.
- Not just when life is easy.
- But in your decisions, your emotions, your relationships, your direction—

Whose voice is shaping your life?

SO LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

Jesus begins with a picture His audience understood well: sheep, shepherds, gates, and pens.

But He is not just describing agriculture—He is revealing a spiritual reality.

NOT EVERY VOICE THAT SOUNDS SPIRITUAL IS FROM GOD

Jesus says in **(John 10:1-8)**

Jesus is warning us that thieves and robbers try to gain access to the sheep. The enemy rarely announces himself as a thief. He often disguises himself as wisdom, opportunity, or even spirituality.

1 John 4:1, "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God."

That means there are voices trying to gain access to your life that did not come through Christ.

Not every voice that says “God told me...” is God...Not every opinion with a Bible verse attached is true.

Some voices sound spiritual—but can be destructive.

A bank teller is trained to detect counterfeit money. They don't study fake bills—they study the real one so closely that when a fake appears, they instantly know.

They don't say, “That feels off.”
They say, “That's not real.”

Church, the problem is not that we study false voices too much...The problem is we don't study His word enough and we don't spend enough time with Him enough in order to recognize His voice.

The voice of Jesus brings:

- Truth instead of confusion
- Peace instead of fear
- Conviction instead of condemnation
- Hope instead of despair
- Direction instead of wandering

NOW HE GOES EVEN FURTHER:

He doesn't just talk about false voices...
He introduces Himself as the answer.

Jesus says:

“Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.” (John 10:7)

“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.” (John 10:9)

1. JESUS IS THE ONLY GATE

He doesn't say, “I am a gate.”

He says, “I AM the gate.”

And Jesus mentions this again later in (John 14:1-4) That He is the only way.

Meaning: access to God is not found in systems, self-effort, or spiritual shortcuts.

It is found in Him alone.

Acts 4:12

"Salvation is found in no one else."

HE IS THE DOOR INTO SAFETY

Imagine a shepherd building a sheep pen in the wilderness. At night, he doesn't build a wooden door. He is the door that lies across the opening.

So if anything tries to get to the sheep, it has to go through Him first.

Jesus is saying:

“I am not just the one who opens the door...
I AM the door.”

CHURCH GET THIS ONCE YOU ENTER, SOMETHING CHANGES

He doesn't just give access—He gives
relationship.

2. Jesus' Sheep Recognize His Voice

⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.” (John 10:4-5)

⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. (John 10:8)

And later in the text, which we will hear about next week:

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27)

These are some of the most powerful spiritual truths in Scripture:

Belonging produces recognition.

You don't follow a voice you don't trust.

And you don't trust a voice you don't know.

In a crowded room, full of noise, children can still recognize their parent's voice.

Why?

Because of relationship.

- Years of being known.
- Years of being guided.
- Years of trust.

So even when many voices are speaking—**the familiar voice cuts through the noise.**

Some people say, “I don't know if God is speaking to me.”

But often the issue is not that God is silent.

It's that other voices are louder:

- fear
- trauma
- culture
- insecurity
- past mistakes
- other people's opinions

But the more time you spend with Jesus...

The clearer His voice becomes.

HOW DOES JESUS LEAD?

Not by force. Not by fear. Not by manipulation.

3. Jesus Leads—He Does Not Drive

Jesus says:

“He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” (John 10:3)

- He leads.
- He calls.
- He goes ahead.
- He does not push you into purpose.
- He invites you into it.

In the biblical world, the shepherd was a figure of both humble status and profound responsibility.

Because the terrain of the ancient Near East was often rugged and arid, the survival of a flock depended entirely on the character and skill of its leader.

The biblical description of a shepherd can be broken down into three primary roles:

- **He Is A Provider and Guide**

The shepherd's primary task was to find "green pastures" and "still waters" in a land where such resources were scarce.

They spent months away from home, living in the elements.

Sheep are notorious for wandering into danger or getting lost. A shepherd had to know the terrain perfectly to lead them along paths that were safe from cliffs and flash floods.

As described in the Gospels, shepherds didn't drive sheep from behind with whips; they walked in front and called to them.

The sheep recognized the unique pitch and rhythm of their specific shepherd's voice.

- **He Is A Protector**

The biblical shepherd was a warrior for his flock. In the Old Testament, David describes defending his sheep against lions and bears (1 Samuel 17:34-36).

The Rod: A short, heavy club worn at the belt, used to fend off predators or disciplined redirection.

The Staff: A long, slender pole, often with a crook at the end, used to gently pull a sheep back from a ledge or lift a lamb from a thicket.

The Fold: At night, the shepherd would gather the sheep into a stone pen or a cave. He would often sleep across the entrance, literally becoming the "door" to ensure no wolf could enter without waking him.

- **He Is A Caretaker**

A shepherd's relationship with the flock was deeply personal rather than industrial.

He Gives Individual Attention: Shepherds "numbered" their sheep daily, checking for injuries, disease, or exhaustion.

The Weak and Young: Isaiah 40:11 provides a tender image of a shepherd gathering lambs in his arms and carrying them close to his heart. This highlights the patience required for the slow, the young, and the injured.

Oil and Healing: They carried a horn of oil to soothe the heads of sheep that were scratched by briars or to act as a repellent for insects.

Unlike cattle drivers who push from behind, a shepherd walks in front of the sheep.

That means: Where Jesus leads you, He has already walked it.

Your future is not unfamiliar territory to Him.

If it feels like:

- constant pressure
- confusion without peace
- shame-driven decisions

That is not the voice of the Shepherd.

Jesus leads with clarity—even when the path is hard.

AND WHEN YOU FOLLOW HIM, YOU ARE NOT LEFT UNPROTECTED

4. Jesus Protects What He Leads

Jesus contrasts Himself with hired hands:

“The hired hand... runs away when he sees the wolf coming.” (John 10:12)

But Jesus stays.

A hired worker only cares when it benefits them. When danger comes, they disappear.

But a shepherd doesn't abandon what he owns.

Jesus is saying:

“When trouble comes, I don't leave—I lean in.”

Some people think:

“If I'm going through hardship, God must have left me.”

But John 10 says the opposite.

The presence of danger does not mean the absence of the Shepherd.

Sometimes it means He is standing closer than ever.

WHAT IS HIS GOAL IN ALL THIS?

Not just survival. Not just protection. But overflow.

5. Jesus Gives Abundant Life

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

Not partial life...Not barely making it...Not spiritual survival mode.

Full life. Overflowing life. Whole life.

Some people live like God is filling them just enough to get by.

But Jesus describes life that overflows—like water spilling over the edges.

That means:

- peace that doesn't match your situation
- joy that survives pain
- strength in weakness
- hope in uncertainty

This does not mean a problem-free life...It means a Christ-filled life.

And Christ-filled life is stronger than circumstance.

HERE IS WHERE THE TEXT GETS REAL

Because when Jesus speaks, people respond differently.

JESUS' VOICE ALWAYS FORCES A RESPONSE

The passage ends with division:

“There was a division among the Jews because of these words.” (John 10:19)

- Some said He is crazy.
- Some said He is demon-possessed.
- Some said no one could do these works unless God is with Him.

You cannot encounter Jesus and remain neutral.

His voice does one of two things:

- It draws you closer
- Or it exposes resistance

But it never leaves you unchanged.

NOW WE COME TO THE CORE QUESTION:

Not just “Is Jesus speaking?”

But: WHOSE VOICE ARE YOU FOLLOWING?

Because there are many voices:

- culture
- fear
- ambition
- pain
- opinion
- temptation

But only one voice is the Shepherd's.

And He is still speaking:

- calling you out of confusion
- calling you out of sin
- calling you out of fear
- calling you into life

ALTAR CALL / RESPONSE MOMENT

Church, I want you to sit with this:

If I stripped away every voice in your life—
social media, people's opinions, even your own
fears—

**Would you still recognize the voice of
Jesus?**

Because He is calling today.

- Not to religion.
- Not to performance.
- Not to trying harder.
- But to relationship.

If you've never entered through the Gate—Jesus Christ—today He is inviting you in.

Not because you earned it...But because He laid down His life for you.

And the same Shepherd who says, "I know my sheep," is calling your name right now.