Breaking the Cycle of Following the Wrong Voices (III)

Main Scripture

John 10:10

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

Key Thought

The thief still whispers, but so does the Shepherd. One voice leads to bondage. The other leads to freedom.

Big Idea

Every voice we follow is taking us somewhere. The enemy works to steal, kill, and destroy, but Jesus leads His people toward protection, freedom, restoration, purpose, community, and abundant life.

Abundant life is not the absence of trouble. It is the presence of Christ filling every part of our lives.

Supporting Scriptures

John 8:44 – The enemy is a liar and the father of lies.

John 15:1 – Jesus is the true vine, and His people find life through connection to Him.

Genesis 28:17 – Jacob declared the place to be “the gate of heaven,” pointing toward the greater reality fulfilled in Christ.

Joel 2:25 – God promises restoration of what has been lost.

Malachi 3:11 – God declares that He will rebuke the devourer.

Ephesians 3:20–21 – God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above what we ask or think.

Core Points

1. Every Voice Has a Destination

False shepherds exploit the sheep for their own purposes. Jesus serves the sheep and ultimately gives His own life for them.

A voice that consistently pulls us away from faith in Christ is not leading us toward life.

The question is not simply, **"What am I hearing?"**

The deeper question is, **"Where is this voice leading me?"**

2. The Enemy's Objective Is Destruction

Jesus describes the thief's purpose plainly: **steal, kill, and destroy.**

The enemy steals peace.
He kills hope.
He attacks marriages, purpose, testimony, and generations.

And destruction does not always happen overnight.

One compromise can become a habit.
A habit can become a lifestyle.
A lifestyle can become a prison.

The enemy does not have to destroy someone in one day if he can keep that person distracted one day at a time.

3. Jesus Offers Something Completely Different

The thief takes from the sheep.

Jesus gives Himself for the sheep.

Through Christ we receive protection, freedom, provision, restoration, salvation, community, purpose, and eternal life.

The life Jesus gives lasts forever, **but it begins today.**

4. Abundant Life Is More Than Being Alive

Jesus did not simply promise life. He promised life **abundantly**.

He came to give His people a life that is full, complete, expansive, and rooted in Him.

Abundant life is:

Peace in pressure.
Joy in sorrow.

Hope in uncertainty.
Strength in weakness.
Purpose after failure.
Grace for every season.

Abundance is not ultimately measured by possessions.

It is measured by His presence.

5. Abundant Life Is Not a Problem-Free Life

Following Jesus does not mean wolves will never howl.

It means **the sheep never face the wolves alone.**

Jesus does not promise His followers freedom from every difficult circumstance. He promises His presence, provision, guidance, and a life that circumstances cannot take away.

The abundant life is not a problem-free life. It is a Christ-filled life.

6. Jesus Restores What Sin Has Stolen

Jesus came for more than behavior modification or religious activity. He came to save us and restore what sin has damaged.

God can restore lost years.
He can rebuke the devourer.
He can restore purpose.
He can restore hope.
He can break destructive generational cycles.

What the enemy intended for destruction does not have to become the final chapter of our story.

7. Abundant Life Is Both Personal and Communal

Jesus knows His sheep individually and calls them by name, but He also brings them into **His flock**.

Salvation connects us to Christ and joins us to His people.

Like branches connected to one vine, believers receive life from Christ and become part of something larger than themselves.

We are called individually, but we are not called to live isolated.

Reflection Questions

1. What voices currently have the greatest influence over my decisions, attitudes, and expectations?
2. Is there a voice I have accepted that is pulling me away from trusting Christ?
3. Where can I see the pattern of compromise → habit → lifestyle → bondage developing in my life?
4. What has the enemy attempted to steal, kill, or destroy in my life or family?
5. Have I defined "abundant life" by possessions and circumstances rather than the presence of Christ?
6. Where do I need to trust Jesus for restoration?
7. Am I trying to follow Christ in isolation, or am I actively connected to the community He has placed around me?

Application

Identify the voice. Pay attention this week to the thoughts, influences, conversations, and messages shaping your decisions.

Test the destination. Ask: *If I continue following this voice, where will it lead me?*

Reject the lie. Stop agreeing with anything that contradicts God's Word and pulls you away from Christ.

Follow the Shepherd. Replace destructive voices with Scripture, prayer, worship, and godly community.

Expect restoration. Do not allow what has already been lost to convince you that your future is lost too.

Choose abundant life. Live from the truth that Jesus did not merely come to keep you alive. **He came so that you could live fully in Him.**

Prayer Focus

Lord Jesus, help me recognize Your voice above every voice competing for my attention. Expose every lie I have believed and every destructive cycle that has grown from it. Restore what has been stolen, revive what has been weakened, and break every pattern that keeps me from the life You have called me to live. Teach me to follow You, remain connected to You, and receive the abundant life that is found in Your presence. Let Your voice be louder than fear, temptation,

distraction, and deception. I choose the voice of my Shepherd. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Strong Pull Quotes for Screens/Social

"The thief still whispers, but so does the Shepherd. One voice leads to bondage. The other leads to freedom."

"Sin advertises pleasure while hiding pain. It promises freedom while building chains."

"The enemy doesn't need to destroy you in one day. He simply wants to keep you distracted one day at a time."

"Abundant life is not measured by possessions. It is measured by His presence."

"The abundant life is not a problem-free life. It is a Christ-filled life."

"The Shepherd doesn't promise that wolves won't howl. He promises that His sheep will never face them alone."

"Jesus came not merely to improve our lives. He came to restore what sin had stolen."