

**LESSON 17: JOHN 10:1-21**  
**OCTOBER 17, 2018**

**OVERVIEW**

- . Background regarding the first discourse
- . The first parable: false and true shepherds – John 10:1-6
- . The second parable: Jesus and the gate – John 10:7-10
- . The third parable: Jesus, the good shepherd – John 10:11-21

**BACKGROUND REGARDING THE FIRST DISCOURSE**

- . Setting
  - . The temple in Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles
  - . A continuation of the interaction with a group of Pharisees discussed in John 9
    - . After Jesus gives sight to the blind man, the Pharisees question first whether it really happened and then who gives Jesus the authority to do such things
    - . Jesus quotes from Isaiah when he tells the Pharisees he came in to the world to give sight to those who can't see whereas those who have sight will lose it
    - . The Pharisees refuse to be taught because they think they are the teachers
    - . Jesus begins Chapter Ten addressing these same Pharisees
    - . The blind man whose sight has been restored and who believes is probably still there listening
- . The reference of the Shepherd of the Sheep is given throughout Old Testament
  - . The audience that the writers were writing for were very familiar with the duties of a Shepherd
    - . It was one of the major occupations of the times
    - . Virtually everyone was familiar with the life of a Shepherd
    - . The primary purpose for Sheep in these times was the wool and milk
      - . Sheep lived a long time and were the most important household asset
    - . The Sheep knew the sounds of the Shepherd and would only react to those sounds
      - . Shepherds developed a series of whistles and other sounds to round up and move the herd
  - . First reference of the Shepherd is given in Genesis 49:24
  - . God, Himself, is referred to as David's own Shepherd – Psalm 23
  - . Old Testament prophets refer to the Messiah as the true Shepherd who will gather up and tend to His Sheep – Psalm 40:11

- . The prophets also compare true shepherds with false shepherds – Jeremiah 23:1-4, Ezekiel 34, Zechariah 11:15-17
- . Jesus makes His point using three parables
  - . False and true shepherds – John 10:1-6
  - . Jesus as the gate – John 10:7-10
  - . Jesus as the good Shepherd – John 10:11-21

### **THE FIRST PARABLE: FALSE AND TRUE SHEPHERDS – JOHN 10:1-6**

- . “I tell you the truth” – John 10:1-6
  - . Jesus would often use this when He was about to launch in to another, new and important teaching moment
- . Jesus is encouraging the excommunicated man to realize that the people who threw him out of the synagogue are not true shepherds authorized by God
  - . They refused to enter the pen the prescribed way
    - . If they were true Shepherds they would have had faith in the promises to Abraham and the prophets, which pointed to Jesus Christ the Messiah
    - . They refused God’s way and tried to lead the sheep another way, illustrated in this very story, so Jesus calls them thieves and robbers of God’s Sheep
  - . The Sheep would not follow them but fled from them
    - . The blind man in this story heard the true Shepherds voice and not only followed Him but fled from the false shepherds
- . Characteristics of the true Shepherds – John 10:2-5
  - . The true Shepherds enter by the prescribed way, the gate
    - . The gate is the prophecies of the Old Testament, which Christ fulfilled when He came
    - . Guardian of the gate, the watchman, recognizes the true shepherd, empowers him and authorized him to enter for immediate contact with the sheep
      - . Jesus’ reference to the watchman could be the Holy Spirit
      - . It’s through the Holy Spirit’s authority and power that Jesus is revealed to the sheep as the True Shepherd
  - . The true shepherd knows and cares for the sheep
    - . Jesus knows each sheep by name
    - . The true shepherd will treat the sheep in the same manner that Jesus would
  - . Jesus leads His own sheep to new pastures
    - . Jesus will walk alongside His sheep and lead them in the path of righteousness – Psalm 23

## **THE SECOND PARABLE: JESUS AS THE GATE – JOHN 10:7-10**

- . Shepherds often times were the actual gates to the summer pastures
  - . Summer pastures consisted of rock walls that formed the pen outline
  - . The opening to the pen was where the shepherd would lie down and sleep at night to protect the flock
- . “I am the gate” – John 10:7
  - . Jesus takes the procession here from Him not only being the true Shepherd, but the only way in to the pen
  - . He is the only Messiah
    - . Anyone else who calls himself a Messiah is a thief and robber
    - . They’re robbers because they poison and steal God’s sheep
- . Jesus gives promise to those who enter by Him – John 10:9-10
  - . He says they will be saved – saved from what?
  - . Our pride keeps many today, from seeking salvation from our current condition because we refuse to admit we are lost
  - . Salvation, as Jesus is using it, means to be delivered from an evil power
  - . One must choose to desire to be inside the pen and then choose to enter the proper way
    - . This requires a deliberate act involving one’s entire being
- . They will find security
  - . We now have an advocate that will provide the strength for us to overcome our sins
    - . We still need to choose to go to and use that advocate
- . They will find satisfaction and will have life, abundant life
  - . Jesus will allow us to have the abundant life that God wants us to have

## **THE THIRD PARABLE: JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD – JOHN 10:11-21**

- . The good shepherd – the one who will lay down his life for his sheep
  - . This is in contrast to the bad shepherd(s) who truly don’t care for the sheep committed to him
- . Nine characteristics of the Good Shepherd – John 10:14-18
  - . He knows who is His own – verse 14
  - . His own sheep know Him as their Shepherd – verse 14
  - . The Good Shepherd knows God perfectly – verse 15
  - . The Good Shepherd dies for the sheep – verse 15

- . The Good Shepherd seeks gentile sheep also – verse 16
  - . The Good Shepherd is loved by His Father – verse 17
  - . The Good Shepherd always had the resurrection in mind – verse 17
  - . The Good Shepherd obeyed His Father's command – verse 18
  - . The Good Shepherd had unique power over death – verse 18
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- . Division among His hearers – John 10:19-21
    - . This last emphasis upon His deity produced a major division among His hearers
    - . At this point, the Pharisees either embraced His deity or had no choice but to try to kill Him because of His blasphemy

**NEXT LESSON: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018 – JOHN 10:22-42**