

Jesus is the Good Shepherd

John 10:1-21

The word's of Christ in this passage following His healing of a man born blind. The healed man and his parents were brought before the Jewish leaders. They demanded that this man give glory to God for his new vision and that he acknowledge Jesus' works to be that of the devil (8:52; 9:24). Jesus explained how these religious leaders themselves were blinded by their own arrogant-pride from seeing the Son of God right in front of them. The Pharisees expelled the healed man whom Christ Himself gave sight and eternal life. The Pharisees were scattering the sheep that Jesus came to gather. Here Jesus contrasts himself (The Good Shepherd), with the Pharisees, who He compares with the evil shepherds of Ezekiel 34. - **Further Reading: Ezekiel 34**

Read John 10:1-21

v.1-2- A Sheep pen was an open area surrounded by barrier walls (*constructed or natural*) with a single opening. At night a shepherd gathered his sheep into a pen for protection from thieves or wolves and would lie in the opening to serve as the gate. Nothing could get into, or out of the sheepfold without having to go through "the gate". Jesus states that these false teachers have entered the sheep pen by means other than the gate, and are robbing God of His sheep.

v.2 - Jesus states that He is the Savior-Shepherd of His sheep because He came into the world the prophesized way. He entered according to God's plan for Salvation. He has presented His credentials to His people.

1. He was born of a virgin - Isaiah 7:14; Matt. 1:21-23

3. He came at the proper time - Galatians 4:4

2. He had been born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2; Matt. 2:4-6

4. His arrival provoked much rage - Jer. 31:15; Matt. 2:16-18.

Jesus was born in the right place, arriving at the right time, summoned from the right country (Matt. 2:14-15), and attended by the right sign. He possesses all the credentials necessary to prove that He is the Good Shepherd. John the Baptist recognized this and announced Him to the nation as such (John 1:29).

v-4 – Why do true sheep follow the Shepherd? Look up: John 8:47

v.3-5 - When several flocks end up at a watering place at the same time and mingle together, they are easily separated again by the shepherd, who gives his distinct call as he starts to walk away. Also, families on a given street would often corral their sheep in a common pen. In the morning the shepherds would go to gather their sheep. The watchman would recognize the shepherd and open the gate. The shepherd had a distinct call. The focus here is not on a casual call, but a loving personal call. The shepherd calls his own sheep by name. Each particular sheep is known and loved by this shepherd. They are "not simply units in a flock".

v.6 – Following up on the previous chapter, these Pharisees claim to be able to see (9:40-41), but their inability to understand Jesus is yet another example of their spiritual blindness. Judaism is being described as a sheep pen, but not all the sheep in the pen belong to Jesus' flock. They are separated out as they recognize his voice and follow him out from the sheep pen. Look up: John 9:16, John 10:19

v. 9 – The one who enters by Jesus has the liberty *to come in and go out*. This expression often referred to the entirety of a person's daily activities (Deut 28:6,19; Psalm 121:8; Acts 1:21). Jesus' sheep have the freedom to live their lives in His presence. God is not contained by the walls of a synagogue (church). We walk with Him. Look up: Numbers 27:15-17

v.10 - In contrast to the stealing, death and destruction brought by the thief who acts for his own selfishness at the cost of the sheep, Jesus serves the sheep by providing for them *the way* of life, at the cost of his own life. Look up: Psalm 23:2, 5

v.11- By referring to himself as the shepherd Jesus is using more divine language. In the Old Testament, the leaders of God's people are called shepherds, (Moses - Psalm 77:20; David - Psalm 78:70-72). Jesus is claiming such a role for himself. He has also previously made clear claims of being the Messiah. So when He claims to be the Shepherd He is claiming that in Him, God Himself has come to shepherd His people.

v.16 - Jesus is referring to sheep from outside the fold of Judaism (Gentiles), and many who the Pharisees have expelled from the synagogue. Look up: Romans 1:16, John 9:22, 34

v.17-18 – Jesus' life will not simply be taken from Him by His opponents. At no point in Scripture are His actions determined by human agenda, and His work on Cross will be no different. It may look like the triumph of darkness over light, but it is not. Pilate may think he has the authority (John 19:10), but Jesus tells him, "*You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above*" (John 19:11).

v.19-21 - These are the same people who had been divided over Jesus due to His healing of the blind man (9:16). Both Jesus' words and deeds combine to bear witness to Him. But the truth simply increases the division.

Look up: Luke 12:51-52