

9/22/2019

## **Lessons From The Sheepfold**

Text: **John 10:1-21**

<sup>1</sup>“Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>But the one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen for his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will flee from him because they do not recognize his voice.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus spoke to them using this illustration, but they did not understand what He was telling them.

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. The first analogy is the **permanent** sheepfold that was usually in the city.
- B. It had a gate and it was the official entrance of the **owner** of the sheep. V. 2
- C. Only a person who is up to **no good** would enter into the sheepfold through another route. V.1
- D. A good shepherd has a **personal** relationship with each sheep in his flock. V.3-5
- E. The religious leaders were **deaf** to what Jesus was telling them. V.6

<sup>7</sup>So He said to them again, “Truly, truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before Me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. If anyone enters through Me, he will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it in all its fullness. <sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand is not the shepherd, and the sheep are not his own. When he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf pounces on them and scatters the flock. <sup>13</sup>The man runs away because he is a hired servant and is unconcerned for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know My sheep and My sheep know Me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father. And I lay down My life for the sheep.

- F. The second analogy is of a **temporary** sheepfold usually in the summer and it was temporary. V.7
- G. The shepherd would lay down at the entrance of the sheepfold and would become the **door** for it. V.8-9
- H. Jesus **contrasts** Himself with the enemies of God’s people. V.10-11
- I. Jesus then compares Himself with the **“rent-a-shepherd”**. V.12-13
- J. Jesus then **summarizes** up both analogies. V.14

<sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them in as well, and they will listen to My voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>The reason the Father loves Me is that I lay down My life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father.” <sup>19</sup>Again there was division among the Jews because of Jesus’ message. <sup>20</sup>Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and insane. Why would you listen to Him?” <sup>21</sup>But others replied, “These are not the words of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?” (BSB)

**K.** Jesus alludes to having non-Jewish sheep who see Him as their shepherd. V.16

**L.** Jesus stated His claim to authority given to Him from His Father. V.17-18

**M.** This again restarted a debate as to who He was claiming to be. V.19-21

**II.** What can we take away from this passage?

**A.** Do you have a Shepherd of your soul?

**B.** Do you listen to the shepherds that God has given you here on earth?

**C.** It is dangerous to try to shepherd yourself.

**D.** You can determine whether your human shepherds are of God or not by their response when it costs them to be your shepherd.