

The Good Shepherd

John 10:1-21

INTRODUCTION: I will read all the verses up front before explaining.

[1] "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. [2] But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. [3] To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. [4] When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. [5] A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." [6] This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. [8] All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. [9] I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. [10] The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. [11] I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lay down his life for the sheep. [12] He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. [13] He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. [14] I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, [15] just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. [16] And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. [17] For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. [18] No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

[19] There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. [20] Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?" [21] Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

EXPLANATION:

- Verses 1-6
- Verses 7-10
- Verses 11-18

CONCLUSION:

- The sheepfold is the presence - it is access to God.
- You have access to God if you are his sheep.
- You enter into the sheepfold through the door, which is his flesh.

- He accomplished this by laying down, and raising up again, his life as the Good Shepherd.
- Now:
 - You have access to the sheepfold.
 - You are fed by the Good Shepherd.
 - You are led by the Good Shepherd on grand adventures (to go get the other sheep).
- Questions:
 - Are you a sheep? Are you a thief, trying to sneak in? Are you a wolf?
 - Are you entering into his presence?
 - Are you following him into the unknown?
- When you are confused about your life, what you should be doing, where you should be going, you need to slow down and enter into his rest, abiding with the Good Shepherd until he leads you out. → Psalm 23
 - *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*
 - *2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.*
 - *He leads me beside still waters.*
 - *3 He restores my soul.*
 - *He leads me in paths of righteousness*
 - *for his name's sake.*
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 - *4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,*
 - *I will fear no evil,*
 - *for you are with me;*
 - *your rod and your staff,*
 - *they comfort me.*
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 - *5 You prepare a table before me*
 - *in the presence of my enemies;*
 - *you anoint my head with oil;*
 - *my cup overflows.*
 - *6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me*
 - *all the days of my life,*
 - *and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord*
 - *forever.*