

God With Us

A Study of John's Gospel: "The Good Shepherd and His Sheep"

John 10:1-21

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." – John 10:11

I. I Am The Door

- a. In our last lesson the Pharisees mistreated the blind man. (John 9:34)
- b. In contrast, Jesus welcomed, healed and spiritually cared for him. (John 9:35-38)
- c. In this section Jesus symbolically described Himself as *the door* and *the shepherd*. These symbols help us understand who Jesus is and what He wants to do for us.
 1. We see in these symbols Jesus' humanity and divinity.
- d. I am the *Door*. (vv.7-10) Notice the singularity of the word. Not *doors*, but the door.
- e. What is the main purpose of a door? It gives admission to the house.
- f. Jesus is the only entrance to His Church, the Kingdom of God and eternal life.
- g. As the door, Jesus has a welcoming ministry and presence. He does not condemn us.
- h. As the Door, Jesus delivers sinners from bondage; we receive life and are saved.
- i. We are not admitted by title or prestige, but we receive Kingdom titles and prestige on the other side of the door. Entering is not complicated. We must simply receive Jesus' invitation to know Him.
- j. Since Jesus Christ is *the Door*, we should expect division, because a door shuts some people in and others out. Once inside we must allow Him to be our Shepherd.

II. I Am The Good Shepherd

- a. In Jewish culture a *shepherd* was any kind of leader, spiritual or political. In the O.T., kings and prophets were referred to as shepherds. (Psalm 100:3; Ezek 34:1-31)
- b. The Pharisees are the *thieves and robbers*. They got to their positions of shepherd-like leadership without the blessing of the Gatekeeper.
- c. The sheepfold is the nation of Israel. The Gentiles are the *other sheep*. (v.16)
- d. Jesus, who died for all humanity seeks to bring Jew and Gentile into "one flock." (v.17)
- e. Jesus identifies Himself as the *Good Shepherd*. The Pharisees led the *sheep* away from God.
- f. Every true shepherd must be called of God and sent by God. Jesus was not a hireling.
- g. Sheep, without a shepherd, wander without purpose, get lost, and do not pay attention to dangers around them. (Mark 6:34)
- h. This is the spiritual state of people. Jesus guides, protects and nurtures His flock by His truth.
 1. Jesus separates the sheep from the goats. Sheep and goats are not separated by appearance, but by truth and obedience.
- i. It is through communication, the Shepherd speaking, and the sheep listening, that the sheep get to know the shepherd and understand His will. (v.14)
 1. When the Shepherd speaks (the Word of God) the sheep will *hear His voice*.
- j. As the shepherd personally knows and cares for the sheep, Jesus knows His sheep by name. (v.3)

III. Application of the Word

- a. Have you entered through *the Door*? Have you made Jesus your personal Savior?
- b. Is Jesus your *Good Shepherd*? Have you made Jesus your Lord?
- c. We experience the *abundant life* as we follow the Shepherd. (Psalm 23)
- d. Come to Jesus as your Door, your Shepherd, and your Life.