

# Jesus the Good Shepherd—John 10

September 23, 2007

## I. Outline: (from: *The Outline Bible*)

### I. THE MESSAGE BY JESUS (10:1–21)

#### A. The metaphor (10:1–6):

Jesus illustrates his mission on earth by describing two different ways to enter a sheepfold.

1. The wrong way, climbing over a wall (10:1)  
This is the method of thieves and robbers.
2. The right way, entering through the gate (10:2–6)  
This is the method of a true shepherd.

#### B. The meaning (10:7–18):

He explains his illustration by giving the characteristics of three kinds of individuals

1. Characteristics of the Good Shepherd (10:7, 9, 10b–11, 14–18)  
Here he describes himself:
  - a. His relationship with the sheep (10:7, 9, 10b–11, 14–18)
    - (1) He is the entrance to their salvation (10:7)
    - (2) He allows them to go in and out, and find green pasture (10:9)
    - (3) He gives them life in all its fullness (10:10b)
    - (4) He lays down his own life for them (10:11)
    - (5) He knows his sheep and they know him (10:14)
  - b. His relationship with the Father (10:15–18)
    - (1) He knows his Father, and the Father knows him (10:15–16)
    - (2) He is loved by His Father (10:17)
    - (3) He is given power by the Father to lay down his life and take it up again (10:18)
2. Characteristics of thieves and robbers (10:8, 10a)  
Their purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy!
3. Characteristics of a hired hand (10:12–13)
  - a. He forsakes the sheep in time of danger (10:12)
  - b. He cares nothing for the sheep (10:13)

#### C. The mixed views (10:19–21)

There is much confusion concerning Jesus after he speaks these words.

1. Some say he is insane (10:19, 20b)
2. Some say he is demon-possessed (10:20a)
3. Some question if he would be able to heal if he were in fact demon-possessed (10:21)

### II. THE MALICE AGAINST JESUS (10:22–39)

The Jews now attempt to kill the Savior on two specific occasions because of his claims to be the Son of God.

#### A. First attempt (10:22–31)

1. His words (10:25–30)
  - a. He says they are not his sheep (10:25–26).
  - b. He says his sheep listen to him (10:27) .
  - c. He says his sheep will never perish and are eternally secure (10:28–29).
  - d. He says he and the Father are one (10:30) .

2. Their wickedness (10:22–24, 31):  
They ask Jesus if he is the Messiah. When he says he is, they become angry and pick up stones to hurl at him.

**B. Second attempt (10:32–39)**

1. His words (10:32–38)
  - a. He says they refuse to believe in the Scriptures (10:32–36).
  - b. He says they should believe in his miracles (10:37–38).
2. Their wickedness (10:39) : Again they unsuccessfully attempt to seize him.

**III. THE MEETING WITH JESUS (10:40–42):**

Jesus now leaves Jerusalem for awhile.

**A. The place (10:40)** He goes to where John once baptized.

**B. The people (10:41–42)** Many meet with him there and are saved.

**II. Background**

A. For background, read

Isa 56:9–12; Jer 23:1–40; 25:32–38; Eze 34:1–31; Zech 11:1–17

B. *The Teacher's Commentary*

In the Old Testament, the picture of a shepherd and his sheep was often used to illustrate the relationship between God and His people. "The Lord is my Shepherd," one psalmist said. Another added, "We are the sheep of His pasture."

Shepherd was also a term applied to spiritual leaders in the Old Testament. Jeremiah chose harsh words to describe leaders who perverted their spiritual role: "'Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!' declares the Lord" (Jer. 23:1). The prophet declared that God would set His own Shepherd over His sheep when the promised Son of David (Jesus) reigns.

C. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*

The life of a shepherd could be dangerous as illustrated by David's fights with at least one lion and one bear (1 Sam. 17:34-35, 37). Jacob also experienced the labor and toil of being a faithful shepherd (Gen. 31:38-40). Jesus said, **I am the Good Shepherd** (cf. John 10:14). In the Old Testament, God is called the Shepherd of His people (Pss. 23:1; 80:1-2; Ecc. 12:11; Isa. 40:11; Jer. 31:10). Jesus is this to His people, and He came to give **His life for** their benefit (cf. John 10:14, 17-18; Gal. 1:4; Eph. 5:2, 25; Heb. 9:14). He is also the "Great Shepherd" (Heb. 13:20-21) and "the Chief Shepherd" (1 Peter 5:4).

D. *The New American Commentary*

Such contemporary pictures of the intimate relationship between shepherd and sheep can provide us with the framework of thinking about the great shepherd texts of the Bible: the beloved shepherd psalm (Ps 23), the parable of the lost sheep (Matt 18:12–14; Luke 15:3–7), the compassion statements of Jesus (Matt 9:36; Mark 6:34), the Old Testament texts likening God to a shepherd (Jer 23; Ezek 34; ), and particularly here in this fascinating shepherd.

E. *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament*

The Middle Eastern sheepfold was very simple: a stone wall, perhaps ten feet high, surrounded it, and an opening served as the door. The shepherds in the village would drive their sheep into the fold at nightfall and leave the porter to stand guard. In the morning each shepherd would call his own sheep, which would recognize their shepherd's voice and come out of the fold. The porter (or one of the shepherds) would sleep at the opening of the fold and actually become "the door." Nothing could enter or leave the fold without passing over the shepherd.

III. My thoughts

**A. Qualities of a Shepherd**

- Enters by the door (v.1-3)
- Calls sheep by their name (v.- 3)
- Knows each sheep personally (v.- 14)
- Leads them (v. 3-4)
- Lays down his life (v.-11)
- Concerned about the welfare of sheep (v. 12-13)

**B. Qualities of the sheep of Jesus**

- Hear the voice of the shepherd (v. 3-4)
- Follow the voice of the shepherd (v. - 4)
- Will not follow the voice of the stranger (v. - 5)
- Will flee from the voice of the stranger (v. - 5)
- Believe in Jesus (v. 25-26)
- Have eternal life (v. 28)
- Have protection by Jesus and the Father (v. 28-29)

**C. Jesus as the Good Shepherd**

- He is the door of the sheep (v.7-9)
- He gives life (v. - 10)
- He lays down his life (v.11, 17- 18)
- He knows his own (v.14-15)
- He makes all sheep into one flock (v. - 16)

**D. Response of the Jewish leaders**

- They don't understand what He is saying (v. - 6)
- There is a division among them (v. - 19-21)
- They seek to kill Him (v. 31-33; 39)
- They don't believe because they are not sheep (v. 26-27)

**E. Jesus asserts His deity**

- Through His miracles (signs or works) (v. 25, 32, 37-38)
- Through His words (v. 34-39)
- One with the Father (v. 30)

**F. Comparison between the devil and false workers**

<b>The nature of the devil</b>	<b>The nature of false workers</b>
(wolf, thief)	(hireling, robber)
Steal	Is not concerned about people's welfare
Kill	In ministry for the money
Destroy	Leaves