

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

JOHN 10:1-15

LESSON: THE GOOD SHEPHERD'S LOVE —April 30, 2017

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 9, illustrated the Light of the World in action, demonstrated toward a blind man blind since birth. He reaches into the darkness of one man's life, opens his eyes, and sets him free. Jesus said *"He must work the works of Him who sent Him while it is day: the night cometh and no man can work"* (9:4). It was on a Sabbath Day when the man's eyes were opened (9:14), and the Pharisees didn't like that (9:16). Jesus found out that they had cast the man healed of blindness out of the synagogue. Jesus finds the man to talk to him. The man came to believe that Jesus was the Son of God, the Messiah, and began worshiping Him (9:38). Jesus then says, *"For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind"* (9:39). Some Pharisees heard what Jesus said and asked "Are we blind also?" (9:40). *"If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty,"* Jesus replied. *"But you remain guilty because you claim you can see"* (9:41). Therefore, Salvation is for those who do not see, but may be given sight and believe. Judgement is for those who see, but don't believe; they will remain blind.

LESSON:

I. FOLLOWING John 10:1-6

10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. ¹Jesus describes a sheepfold, which was a circular enclosure, often made of stones. In ordinary practice, sheep were brought into the fold at night so that they would be protected from predators and thieves. During the day, the sheep were taken out of the fold to graze in the pasture. This illustration is spoken to the Jewish leaders who had excommunicated the blind man (9:34). This passage begins the great revelation of Jesus as the Shepherd of Life. *Verily, verily* meaning *"truly, truly"*; I tell you the truth! The sheep are those who trust and follow after Him. There is a sheepfold where all the sheep are kept; the place of acceptance by God; the place of safety and security in God's presence. There was only one door and no roof. But, climbing in another way classifies one as a thief and a robber because he had not entered in by the door.

10:2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The sheepfold can be entered only by the door, the only acceptable way to enter. The true leader enters by the door and He is the only Shepherd of the sheep (Jesus Christ). Sheep is a metaphor for God's people.

10:3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. ²The *'porter'* is the door-keeper or gate-keeper, who fastens and opens the one door into the fold. In the allegory the fold is the Church, the Door is Christ, the sheep are the elect, the shepherds are God's ministers, or in this case Jesus Christ. The porter recognizes the Shepherd and to Him alone does He open the gate symbolizing the Holy Spirit. As we look farther, no one knows the Shepherd except the Father and Spirit. The true Shepherd has a unique relationship with His sheep because they are the ones given to Him by the Father and hearts were opened by the Spirit. He calls His own sheep by name and He leads them out. The sheep respond by hearing His voice, knowing His voice, and following Him. Three things we see of the Shepherd:

1. The Shepherd enters in the fold by the door (10:2).
2. The porter opens the door of the fold for the Shepherd (10:3).
3. The sheep recognize and respond to His voice as He calls and leads (10:3).

¹ <http://www.enterthebible.org/newtestament.aspx?rid=5>

² <http://www.biblehub.com/commentaries/john/10-3.htm>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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10:4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. His purpose is not to steal some sheep from the owner (God) and start a flock of His own. That's how a thief thinks. ³Jesus was indicating that there were those who are His, assigned to Him by the Father, and they will know His voice and follow Him.

10:5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. We just saw that a man born blind was one of those the Father gave Him, but the leaders of Israel, including the Pharisees, were not among those given to Him. They did not know His voice, but God held them accountable. As the Shepherd leads, the sheep follow because they know His voice. Knowing the Shepherd's voice means they won't follow a stranger. Their reaction to a stranger is totally opposite to that of the Shepherd. They will absolutely flee from the stranger; from the false teacher.

10:6 This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. The spiritual truth or illustration was beyond the religionists and the false teachers. They couldn't grasp the truth with their natural minds. They could not see themselves as false shepherds, and they couldn't see Jesus as the true Shepherd. They did not understand the parable of the Shepherd and the sheep; or a thief and a robber, or the voice of a stranger.

II. ENTERING John 10:7-10

10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. Jesus brings up the door again; the entrance way. "*Verily, verily*" meaning "*truly, truly*"; I tell you the truth which stresses a critical importance of what He was about to say. "*I am the Door of the sheep*"; the only Door. Therefore, if a man wishes to enter where God is, he must enter the Door of Christ. There is no other way in.

10:8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. All others who claimed to be the door are thieves and robbers. They claim to have the way to God:

- They claim to know the right way and to have the newest ideas and the latest truth and knowledge.
- They claim to have the right teaching, religion, works, maturity, philosophy, psychology, ideas, and concepts.
- They claim to be the door that opens into God's presence.

But Jesus says that they are thieves and robbers. "*Thief*" implies deception and trickery; "*robber*" implies violence and destruction. They are out to steal the sheep, both their wool (possessions), and their lives (loyalty). However the proof that Jesus is the only Door, and that all others are false doors is that the sheep didn't hear the other voices. Their voice and message was not the voice and message of the true door, the Son of God Himself! The real sheep know the Shepherd's voice and have the ability to discern it.

10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. Jesus, the Door leads to Salvation. "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name, under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved*" Acts 4:12. And there is no other door in which men must enter to be saved. He is the only door that leads to the true pasture.

- His pasture alone can satisfy the soul.
- His pasture alone can restore the soul.
- His pasture alone can give life and give it forever.
- His pasture alone can feed with knowledge and understanding.

Door and gate are used interchangeably. Because of Salvation, Jesus sustains all that go in and out the door to find assurance of provision.

³ <http://www.purposequest.com/archives/bible.asp>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. Jesus now gives the position of the thief.

- The one who says there is another door is a thief and a robber.
- The one who climbs over to get to the sheep another way is a thief.
- The one who tries to steal the soul of the sheep by leading them away from the restrictiveness of Christ is a thief.
 - He tries it by deception which leads to destruction, and the sheep will be destroyed.

He wants the sheep to never know the true Shepherd. The thieves and robbers refer to the Jewish leaders/ false teachers who are trying to lead Israel while avoiding the door (Christ). In reality we know, the thief to be the devil. He is the father of lies. Satan's mission is to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus' mission is to bring everlasting life to those who will accept it. The thief takes away life, but Jesus gives life and He gives life more abundantly. "*Abundantly*" means plentiful and rich nourishment.

III. TRUSTING John 10:11-15

10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. The word "*good*" specifies that there are some bad and false shepherds. Jesus claimed to be the Good Shepherd!

1. He is called "good" because He risks and sacrifices His life for the sheep (Jh.10:11, 14).
2. He is called "great" because He arose from the dead and He perfects the sheep (Heb.13:20-21).
3. He is called the "shepherd and bishop" because He welcomes those who wandered off and went astray (1Pt.2:25).
4. He is called "chief" because He is to appear and return to earth with great glory, and reward the faithful (1Pt.5:4).

A man outside of Jesus Christ only exists because he does not believe. The man in Christ Jesus has life more abundantly and will live eternally with Christ because he believes. It is for this reason that the Son was sent into the world, to show men what life is; the life He is willing to lay down for the sheep!

10:12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. Unlike the Good Shepherd, the "hireling" has no true love or concern for the welfare of the sheep. He is a false, unfaithful, and irresponsible shepherd. His interest was not a calling, but...

- A job and profession
- a position and prestige
- money and comfort
- authority and esteem

He seeks to benefit self, not the sheep. In the moment of danger, the hireling flees; runs away. This causes the sheep to be in danger and in error. They are exposed to the wolf; the enemy.

- Some of the sheep are ravaged and eaten, meaning destroyed.
- The remaining sheep are scattered throughout the wilderness of the world and lost to the Owner (God). It would take time to recover if they are truly the Lord's sheep.

10:13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. It will come out sooner or later what kind of shepherd is over the sheep. A leopard always has spots. When the sheep are not taken care of, the hireling's spots will show up because he is a hireling.

10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. Jesus says it again that He is the Good Shepherd. Five proofs or facts of the Good Shepherd:

1. Jesus knows His sheep.
2. The sheep know Jesus.

There is an intimate knowledge and relationship between Jesus and His sheep. He keeps His mind on them, looking after them by His Spirit; caring for their needs through intercession and shepherding. The sheep in turn recognizes all that He does. And they thereby believe, trust, follow, and are filled by Him.

10:15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

3. The Father knows Jesus.

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4. Jesus knows the Father.
5. Jesus will lay down His life for the sheep.

The Father knows and approves of everything Jesus is doing. When Jesus claims to know the Father, He does not mean that He knows God in the same sense as other men may know Him. Jesus knows the Father perfectly because they are one; there is no difference in them. They have the same nature and power and existence. The Father came down from glory wrapped Himself in flesh to die for the sins of man; to substitute His life for man's; to give man a new life. The emphasis is that the Good Shepherd, not a bad one, is willing to lay down His life for His sheep. Therefore, He would face the enemy of the sheep. He would not flee from His calling and purpose. He would stand and fight the enemy as the Good Shepherd was sent to do, and place Himself in front of the sheep, so the enemy could not get to the sheep. How awesome is that? That Christ would think our lives are worthy of this cost!

SUMMARY:

John is the writer where he brings forth the Good Shepherd love. We will see three points developed: 1) The Shepherd comes in by the door; 2) The Shepherd is the door; and 3) Jesus is the Shepherd of the sheep. There were those who pretend to be shepherds, but Jesus is the true Shepherd. Thieves and robbers attempt to enter the sheepfold by climbing over the wall. True leaders enter in by the door. The Shepherd knows His sheep by name and calls them by name. The sheep hear His voice, and therefore, the Shepherd is able to lead them out of the sheepfold. Knowing the Shepherd's voice means they won't follow a stranger. The Pharisees didn't understand this parable of the Shepherd and the sheep (10:1-6).

Jesus expounds upon this point again by saying that He is the door for the sheep (10:7). Those that had come before Jesus, the true shepherds were thieves and robbers and had no authority over the sheep. Therefore the sheep did not hear them (10:8). By entering into the door, the sheep are saved. Jesus is their entrance and authority when going into and coming out of the pasture (10:9). All those who enter another way, other than by the door, wish to prey upon the flock. Christ enters in to give life (salvation) and gives it more abundantly (10:10). (10:7-10).

The mark of the Good Shepherd is that he gives His life for His sheep (10:11). But there is one called a hireling. He cares nothing for the sheep, in fact, he runs away when any danger comes about because he neither owns nor has authority over the sheep. Therefore when he sees danger, he leaves the sheep to be caught by the wolf (the enemy) and the rest to scatter and be lost (10:12). This is what's expected by a hireling. He has no lasting ties to the sheep (10:13). The Lord Jesus knows whom He has chosen and the sheep know the Good Shepherd (10:14). Of course the Father and the Son know each other because they are One in nature, Spirit, and power. And Jesus adds, "*I lay down my life for the sheep.*" The sacrifice of the Good Shepherd goes even as far as death (10:15). (10:11-15).