### John

## Chapter 10

1‘I tell you the truth; those who don’t enter the sheep pen through the gate, but climb in at some other place, are thieves and robbers.  
  
 2‘Only the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of those sheep. 3He’s the gatekeeper that opens to them, and the sheep listen to his voice.  
  
 ‘So he calls his sheep by their names and then he leads them out. 4And after he has them all out, he leads the sheep and they follow, because they recognize his voice. 5They won’t follow a stranger… They’ll run from him, since they don’t recognize the voice of a stranger.’  
  
6Then, because they didn’t understand what he meant when Jesus gave them this parable, 7Jesus again said:  
  
 ‘I tell you the truth; I’m the gateway to the sheep, 8and all those who came ahead of me were thieves and robbers… So the sheep didn’t listen to them.  
  
 9‘I’m the gateway, and whoever enters through me will be saved… He can come in or he can go out and find a place to graze. 10So while thieves only enter to steal, kill, and destroy, I came here so they can have life… And plenty of it!  
  
 11‘I’m the good shepherd… And a good shepherd will give his life for his sheep. 12A hired hand (someone who isn’t a shepherd and who doesn’t own the sheep) will leave them and run away whenever he sees a wolf coming, so the wolf can scatter them and snatch some away. 13For since he’s just a hired hand, he doesn’t really care about the sheep.  
  
 14‘However, I’m the fine shepherd, and I know my sheep and they know me, 15just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.  
  
 ‘Therefore, I’ll lay down my life for my sheep!  
  
 16‘I also have other sheep that aren’t in this pen, and I must lead them too.  
  
 ‘They’ll listen to my voice and they’ll all become one flock under one shepherd.  
  
 17‘This is why I’m so loved by the Father… Because I’m willing to lay down my life and then take it back again. 18Nobody’s going to take it from me, I’m giving it away! For I’m authorized to lay it down, and I’m authorized to receive it again.  
  
 ‘Yes, this is the rule that I received from my Father!’  
  
19Well, the Judeans once again became divided over these words. 20For many were saying:  
  
 ‘He’s demonized and crazy… So, why are you listening to him?’  
  
21But others were saying:  
  
 ‘These aren’t the words of a demonized man, for a demon can’t open the eyes of a blind man, can it?’  
  
  
  
22Well at the time, the Festival of Rededication [or Hanukkah] was going on in JeruSalem (it was winter). 23And as Jesus was walking along in the temple among the Columns of Solomon, 24some Judeans gathered around him and asked:  
  
 ‘How much longer are you going to keep us in suspense?  
  
 ‘Just tell us if you’re the Anointed One!’  
  
25And Jesus replied:  
  
 ‘I [already] told you, but you don’t want to believe it!  
  
 ‘Even though the things I’m doing in my Father’s Name all testify about me, 26you still don’t believe it, because you aren’t my sheep.  
  
 27‘My sheep listen to my voice… I know them all and they follow me, 28so I’m giving them age-long life!  
  
 ‘No, none of them will be lost in this age, because no one can snatch them out of my hands. 29For my Father who gave them to me is greater than everyone, and no one can snatch them from His hands… 30And my Father and I are one!’  
  
31Then once again, the Judeans picked up rocks to stone him.  
  
32So Jesus said:  
  
 ‘I’ve shown you all these good things that I did, which came from the Father… So, which of these good deeds are you getting ready to stone me for?’  
  
33And the Judeans replied:  
  
 ‘We won’t be stoning you for doing good things, but for your blasphemy!  
  
 ‘Although you’re just a man, you’re making yourself [a] god!’  
  
34Then Jesus asked:  
  
 ‘Isn’t it written in your Law:  
  
 ‘I say that you are gods?’ [Psalm 82:6]  
  
 35‘So if God called those whom His Word spoke against, ‘gods,’... And you can’t void the Scriptures... 36How can you tell me, one who was made holy and sent into the world by the Father, that I’m blaspheming because I say that I’m God’s Son?  
  
 37‘Now, if what I’m doing isn’t my Father’s Will, then don’t believe me! 38But if what I’m [doing really is His Will], then believe in what I’m doing, even if you don’t believe in me!  
  
 ‘For then you’ll come to know, and keep on knowing, that the Father’s in me, and I’m in the Father.’  
  
39So at that point, they tried to grab him again. However, he slipped out of their reach.  
  
  
  
40Then he went off and crossed the JorDan [River], and he stayed at the place where John had started his immersing. 41Many people came to him there, and they were saying:  
  
 ‘John didn’t perform a single sign, but everything that John said about this man is true!’  
  
42So, many started believing in him there.