

Who is God – the Good Shepherd

John 10:1-21

Q) If sheep could talk, what do you think they'd complain about the most?

Q) In the ancient world who were described as the shepherds?

R) Political and spiritual leaders were often described as shepherds.

And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. (Jeremiah 3:15)

Q) Jesus explains that not everyone among the sheep is a shepherd, who do you think he is referencing?

R) The pharisees.

Q) What do you think the difference is between how Jesus and the Pharisees gain entry to the sheep?

R) The religious leaders gained their place among God's people – the sheep spoken of here – through personal and political connections, through formal education, through ambition, manipulation, and corruption. A true shepherd comes in the legitimate and designed way: through love, calling, care, and sacrificial service.

Q) Who do you think the doorkeeper describes?

R) The holy spirit

Q) Jesus says that the Shepherd leads the sheep, what image does this paint for us as to his relationship to us?

A) The sheep are not driven, they are lead. Jesus's calling to us is gentle and loving and not forced. It also demonstrates the protection that we can hope in with our Lord going before us. We have safety when we follow in his footsteps.

Q) What do we think that it means that the sheep, 'know his voice'?

R)...

Q) What do we think it means in verse 5?

R)...

Q) "All who came before me were thieves and robbers" who is Jesus talking about here? It can't be all people before him.

R) Jesus is talking about those that have come in Gods name but were not sent from God and yet have tried to shepherd Gods flock, Israel. They were shepherds who fed themselves but not the flock. They claimed at authority where they had none.

Q) What does it mean that Jesus is the door?

R) He is the only way to new life and to the father. (John 4:16 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.)

Q) What psalm does verse 9 remind you of?

R) Psalm 23??

Q) "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." What does it mean to have abundant life?

R) Some ideas:

- The abundant life is above all the contented life, in which our contentment is based upon the fact that God is equal to every emergency and is able to supply all our needs according to His riches and glory in Christ Jesus

- Abundant life sheep give honour to the shepherd. They are a credit to him.

Q) Verse 11-15: why did Jesus need to die for us?

R) "We are all sinned and fallen short of the glory of god"(Romans 3:23) "For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"

We need Jesus sacrifice to reconcile us to Father and to bring us eternal life

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Q) How does Jesus contrast himself to the hireling?

R) The pharisees performed their duties in good times but never showed sacrificial care during times which contrasts to Jesus who laid down his life for his flock.

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13)

Q) "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." Who is the fold and who are the sheep who are not of this fold?

R) Israel and the gentiles – both have salvation under Christ. Christ died for all.

Q) "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." What do take from these verses?

R) God is sovereign. Everything happens according to his will. He sets himself apart as the only one that can take up his life again (resurrect himself)

(Ephesians 1:11) All things are done according to God's plan and decision

Verse 19:21 people question whether he is a demon. Those with some wisdom comment that demons don't heal those who are blind. Jesus backs up his words with actions.

Matthew 7:15-20 – "by their fruits you will know them"

Halleluiah.

PRAY