



The Shepherd of Your Soul

John 10:1-21

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BIG IDEA: Jesus is the only One who has the authority and love to be the Shepherd for your soul.

John 10:1-10

¹ “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

The Gatekeeper: John the Baptist and the Prophets

The False Shepherds: The Pharisees

Thieves Hired Hands Ezekiel 34

The Sheep: a common metaphor in the Bible for people

Matt 9:36; Matt 10:16

The Gate: Jesus

The Shepherd: Jesus

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who laid down his life.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows, leads, and protects.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gives abundant life.

Psalm 23

For Next Sunday: Read John 10:22-42



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John 10:1-21

What do you know about how shepherds work with sheep? What is the shepherd's main responsibility? What is the nature of sheep that makes this challenging and rewarding?

Read John 10:1-21

Who are the sheep of God's flock? Note that the blind man from chapter 9 is now one of them.

While Jesus is the Good Shepherd, He has other under-shepherds. Who are the under-shepherds of God's flock? 1 Peter 5:1-4
What are the responsibilities of under-shepherds?
What are the responsibilities of the sheep?

(John 10 should be read against the background of Ezekiel 34)
Read Ezekiel 34. What are your observations about the shepherds, God the shepherd, and the sheep?

The sheep gate. In the field, a shepherd would lead or call his sheep into or from a stone enclosure, roughly square in shape, with an entrance on one side. To discourage predators and thieves from climbing over the walls, briars would be placed on top of the wall. This entrance was guarded by a door-keeper (hired watchman), or the shepherd, sitting in the entrance, serving as the gate or door to the enclosure. Nobody or nothing could come in without the door-keeper's permission. If anyone was seen climbing the wall, it was safe to assume that he was up to no good.

In 10:1 and 10:7 Jesus repeats that He is telling the truth. Why does He do this?

Relationship: From 10:1-6, describe the relationship the Shepherd (Christ) has with us and what the shepherding phrases mean.

Enters the gate: He is with us
He calls us by name:
He leads them out:
He goes ahead of them:
They follow Him:
They know His voice:
They will never follow a stranger:

Apply: How does this teaching apply to our capital campaign:
Growing a legacy? The pastors? The people? You?

In light of this, what should our relationship with Christ be like?
What gets in the way of it being the way Christ wants?

I AM the Gate 10:7-10

What does Jesus mean, when He says He is the gate? 10:7-10?

What does the thief do? Who is the thief?
How can we be protected from the thief (false shepherd)?

What is the abundant life that Christ promises?
(Consider Psalm 23 and Galatians 5:22 ff)

I AM the Door 10:11-13

What benefit is it to us that Christ is the door?
In what way is He different than a frightened hired man?

How can we be protected from the unfaithful hired man?

I AM the Good Shepherd 10:14-18

What does He say about the sheep who are already His?

What did Jesus say He would do for the sheep? How and when did He do this?

What does Jesus mean by the fact that He has other sheep that are not of this pen that will listen to His voice? Who do you know that could become one of God's sheep?

Decide: 10:19-21

What were the two main responses to Jesus' teaching?
When did you decide to follow Jesus? What did that mean
to
you at that time? What does that mean to you now?