

John 10:1-6 (The Good Shepherd, Part 1)

There are many pictures in the Scriptures describing our relationship w/ our Lord

A) **Creator**-creation.

Provider- those in need.

General/ His soldiers.

King and his subjects

High Priest and his congregation

Father and Children.

B) But Probably one of the most endearing is that of **Shepherd and his sheep.**

1) It is a picture seen many places in Scripture.

Ezekiel 34:31 "You are My flock, the flock of My pasture; you are men, and I am your God," says the Lord."

Psalms 100:3b "We are His people and the **sheep** of His pasture."

Psalms 95:7 "For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the **sheep** of His hand."

Isaiah 40:11 "He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young."

C) It is that picture that John brings our attention to here in John Ch.10.

Jesus often taught in parables or pictures and here is a good example of that.

A) The teaching comes on the heels of yet another encounter with the religious leaders

B) **The friction this time?** – John 9 look at Wed Jesus heals a man born blind.

1) And once again the miracle happens to take place on the Sabbath

C) And once again – the Pharisees are mad about that –

1) Doesn't God know certain days He shouldn't perform miracles

D) They end up interrogating the healed man and his parents & excommunicate the man from

1) **Awesome and crazy – story we will look at Wed**

But after this situation happens – Jesus tells this parable – Shepherd and His sheep.

A) And over the next few weeks we are going to look at this picture of the Shepherd and His sheep

B) We will break up the section this way.

1) V.1-6 The **Shepherd's relationship** to the sheep

2) V.7-10 The **Shepherd's provision** for His sheep

3) V. 11-18 The **Shepherd's heart** for His Sheep

C) Today The Shepherds relationship with His sheep RD V.1-6

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

D) Now as we consider this first picture today – 3 things I want to make note:

- 1) The sheep know the **shepherds voice**.
- 2) The Shepherds knows His **sheep by name**.
- 3) The **Shepherd leads** the sheep.

E) Keep in mind this thought – Not only are you a sheep but you are also a shepherd.

- 1) Family / Home group/ at work / in sphere.

F) Consider what we can learn from our Shepherd.

Jesus begins in v.1 by talking about entrance into the sheepfold.

A)The purpose of the sheepfold was for protection especially at night – prowlers / wild animals

B)Shepherds kept their sheep in two kinds of sheepfolds

1)Out in the plains – **Cave – Rocks – thick brush**

Anything that they could make into an enclosure.

C) In town –fenced in with a gate keeper - **Communal sheepfold** – common picture in our minds

D) It is this 2nd sheepfold that the Jesus is referencing here in these first few verses.

Picture the scene: In sheep herding country – shepherd goes to town to get supplies –

A)There was a fenced in area – he would take his sheep – but all the shepherds went there dropped sheep off

B) They would **do their business visit friends** – they might stay a couple of days

1) There was someone hired to watch the gate.

C) He would only open the gate to the Shepherds – anyone else coming – **find another way**

1) Thieves robbers – come in the back way or under the fence - take

Jesus was the Good shepherd who enters into the Sheepfold the right way – thru the door.

A) The door being the scriptures – the prophecies concerning his coming – where born/ live etc

B) The thieves & the robbers were the religious leaders everyone else seeking to take from the sheep.

Now in that communal sheepfold you might have 100's of sheep belonging to different shepherds

A) How would they sort out who's was who's ?

B) First point: #1 The sheep know the voice of their shepherd.

C) Talk to anyone who has been around sheep this is an interesting Phenomena –

1) Sheep recognize the voice of the Shepherd – He calls they come.

2) **Special calls and sayings** –

D) Now Someone else or some other shepherd might use the same Phrase – { Sheep don't move.

1) But when their shepherd calls – they respond. Because they know His voice – **THE TONE**

A part time Youth pastor who had just graduated from Seminary in the city – went to visit a sheep farm where two of his students lived.

The farmer liked the youth pastor but wanted to teach him a lesson. So he asked the youth Pastor if he could – help him call in the sheep.

The Youth pastor said sure- sounds fun – What do I do ? Just call them ? Anything special you say.....

"I just say, 'Hey, sheep! C'mon in!"

No Sweat – so he called out – rather softly – the sheep didn't budge or even turn their heads – the farmer – told him "You are 75 yards away, down wind, and they have their backs to you. Yell! Use your diaphragm, like they teach you in preaching class."

So he took a deep breath and put every inch of stomach muscle into a yell that revival preachers around the world would envy: "Hey, sheep! C'mon in!"

The sheep still didn't move an inch. None even turned an ear. The Farmer smiled and said sarcastically. "Do they teach you the Bible in that seminary? Have you ever read, 'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me?'"

And Raising his voice only slightly, he said: "Hey, sheep! C'mon in!" All 50 sheep turned and came running.

The Farmer seized the moment to give this word. "Now, don't you ever forget," he said. "You are the shepherd to my kids."

E) Jesus says my sheep know my voice – The Tone

1) What does His Tone sound like? I think John answers that Question John 1:14 –

Speaking of Jesus the Living word. John said: V.14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth..... 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

His Tone: Full of grace and truth

Now this is something that we see all through the Bible:

A) Prophets would be raised up – come to the nation speaking truth – Judgment is coming

B) But there would always be an underlying word of grace – Spared or delayed if they repented.

C) Grace would be seen in the fact that God would wait sometimes – 100s of yrs before sending Judgment

When Jesus came on the scene – He was this perfect blending between grace and truth.

A) That was His tone – And people were responsive

B) Luke 4:22 They marveled at the **gracious words**

1) And yet Mark 1:22 They marveled **at the authority** that He taught with.

C) Perfect blending of grace and truth.

Now we who are undershepherds are exhorted to have that same tone.

Colossians 4:6 “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt.”

A) Here is what I have found to be true whether it is speaking to my kids, a friend, Staff, whole Church

B) I can say the right thing: **TRUTH** – in the wrong tone – **NO RESULTS** –

1) Or worse yet people get mad and I come off being prideful.

C) But when I say the right thing – speaking the word in the right tone – Grace

1) More often than not the results are remarkable.

D) The sheep know the voice of the shepherd – Know His tone. Recognize his voice.

#2 The Shepherd knows His sheep by name.

A) In Bible times the sheep were raised more for their wool than for LAMB CHOPS – OR food.

B) The Shepherd would name his sheep – usually after some characteristic – spot – how walked

1) **Waddle – Black spot**

C) The point being – the shepherd was closely identified with his sheep.

1) Intimately acquainted with all of their physical features and tendencies.

D) So too Jesus the Good shepherd is intimately acquainted w/ you as His sheep.

He knows your features / Characteristics / your tendencies – Your name.

A) That might seem ironic to some of you who work in big company.

B) You have never met your boss – signs Check

1) He doesn't know your name –

2) Fill a cubicle or you work in a warehouse –

C) You are simply a part of the means that helps the company reach their end / their goals

1) You are there to further an agenda

D) But with Jesus it is the opposite – As your good shepherd – you are his agenda

He knows you / knows your name – knows everything about you. – still loves you

A) That is amazing – Not many people would do that for us –

B) He knows what you are worried about right now

1) He knows the temptations that you struggle with

C) He knows the struggles you have had this week in your marriage

D) In your friendship

1) IN your singleness

2) IN your thought life.

He knows everything and He is ever committed to you as your shepherd. Which takes us to #3

#3 The Shepherd leads the sheep out

A) Although the communal sheepfold was a protected place – **It wasn't the healthiest place to be.**

B) The ground would get eaten up and the vegetation trampled on.

C) Sheep in **close quarters** would often fight with each other

D) So it was important that the Shepherd lead them out

1) Better vegetation

2) Exercise

E) **Ranch to the MT top thru the Valley's**

The Lord does the same thing in our lives

- A) Often times we find ourselves in a place where we are comfortable
- B) Things are going smooth – it feels safe / we feel protected and secure
- 1) God knowing that our faith needs to be challenged leads us out.
- C) I was sharing with someone the other day how in all my years of ministry- God moved me when things were going great

D) CCCM – Alpha Beta – Go to Vista

- 1) Vista great – High School Pastor and College great groups & teams – lead you to Oregon
- E) I am in Oregon – 4 1/2 yrs mobile Church thing –
- 1) Finally get a Building – I have a youth Pastor / secretary – hired an assistant

Things were cranking and all cylinders were firing and then the Lord said – go back to Vista – What?

- A) Been here 10 yrs – LOVE IT – love being here
So many ways anything but comfortable
- B) So much to do – so much to be done –
- C) The Lord leads us out – Healthy for us –

The journey of discovery –

- A) Saddest thing is when you see people shut down when rocked out of their comfort zone
- B) Or they want to run to something that is comfortable again

C) Look in so many of the Lord's servants – leading them out of the place of comfort

- 1) Abe { Left UR
- 2) David { Left sheep on the run
- 3) Gideon { left w/ only 300 men

- D) Paul never seemed to be comfortable.
2 Corinthians 4:7-12

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed — 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So then death is working in us, but life in you.

Paul understood that in the times when His vessel was cracked the light insight was seen even more.

And it is in those times that the most that the phrase the Lord is my shepherd goes from my head to my heart and becomes a part of not just my theology – but my experience.

Jesus went to great lengths to earn the right to be our shepherd!

A) Left heaven and glory and for what –

B) This the amazing thing – Jesus pursues us – He is patient with us

1) But there is nothing that He needs at all from us.

C) He is totally sufficient in Himself for everything.

1) He offers fellowship and friendship but it is purely for our benefit –

D) He is satisfied in his relationship to the Father and creation

So He pursues us and bids us to allow Him to be our shepherd – for our benefit alone.

A) We resist – we run – we ignore – we treat him with disrespect and still He keeps coming

B) That is amazing – Lets say I had 1 million dollars to give you – I called – you wouldn't answer

1) Went to your house you slammed the door in my face

C) I sent you a letter stating all I needed was your signature to release the funds – you ignore and didn't believe me.

D) Guess what – After 3 or 4 times I am going to say forget you and find someone else.

And yet Jesus pursued some of us for 3 or 4 yrs – some even longer.

A) Some He is still pursuing – and yet the resist why.

B) **Fear!** – We trusted someone who hurt us and so we erect walls of self defense/ self preservation

C) We sub consciously lump Christ into that same category or someone we can't trust

1) Fail to see His amazing love

For others it is Pride: Self confidence

A) We think we are better equipped than anyone else including Jesus to lead our lives

For some they like where they are at – Sin

A) Fail to see the big picture

**B) If you learn to listen to his voice – His tone
Lead you in amazing places**

Erik Weihenmayer is blind, yet on May 25, 2001 he reached the peak of Mt. Everest.

Suffering from a degenerative eye disease, he lost his sight when he was 13, but that didn't stop him. On a mountain where 90 percent of climbers never make it to the top—and 165 have died trying since 1953—Erik succeeded, in large measure because **he listened well**.

He listened to the **little bell tied** to the back of the climber in front of him, so he would know what direction to go.

He listened to the **voice of teammates** who would shout back to him, "Death fall two feet to your right!" so he would know what direction not to go.

He listened to **the sound of his pick jabbing** the ice, so he would know whether the ice was safe to cross.

listening well can make all the difference.

Jesus calls today – Will you follow?