

John 10:7-9 (The Good Shepherd, Part 2)

Shepherds eating breakfast outside the town of Gevas, Turkey, were surprised to see a lone sheep jump off of a nearby cliff and fall to its death.

They were stunned, however, when the rest of the nearly 1,500 sheep in the herd followed, each leaping off of the same cliff.

When it was all over, the local Aksam newspaper reported that "450 of the sheep perished in a billowy, white pile" (those that jumped from the middle and end of the herd were saved as the pile became higher and the fall more cushioned).

The estimated loss to the families of Gevas tops \$100,000 an extremely significant amount of money in a country where the average person earns about \$2,700 annually.

A) Sheep need a shepherd: They will do dumb things – creatures of habit – stay in a bad spot- need to be led

B) Constant care / protection / direction

C) That is why it shouldn't surprise us that of all the animals that God made – we are compared the most to sheep

1) We have some of those same tendencies

Well here in John 10 Jesus introduces Himself as the Good shepherd –

A) It was a picture of Himself that He used more than once!

B) Matt 6 – Saw the Crowds – like sheep without a shepherd – he had compassion and taught them

C) Matt 15 He declared that He was sent to minister to the lost sheep of Israel.

D) Here in Jn 10 – He is the Shepherd who comes to lead the sheep out of bondage: Religion / Sin / Satan

We ended last time in v.6 where we were told the people understand what He was trying to say:

A) As we pick it up in v.7 Jesus is going to change the Metaphor slightly.

Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep . 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

B) In v.1-6 The setting is the Communal sheepfold in town

1) Shepherds would leave the sheep / Hired gate keeper

C) When they returned – How distinguish their sheep from others?

1) Sheep Know the shepherds voice{ His Tone – Now Jesus takes us from the town out into the planes out into the wild.

A) In that setting here is what would happen – Night time look for a place to settle – Make shift sheep fold

B) Area surrounded by Rocks / thick Brush / even a Cave.

1) Sheep gathered in – the shepherd would lay or sit across the entry way.

C) He would literally become THE DOOR – no sheep could get past him – NO PREDATOR – could get around him

1) The only way that anyone or anything was getting into or out of that sheepfold was THRU HIM!

SO WHAT DOES THE IMAGE TEACH US ABOUT CHRISTIANITY? Note 3 things

#1 There is only one door!

A) One door into the Ark / One door into the Tab / One door into the Presence of God.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

And again, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

B) Now this flies in the face of the popular teachings of today that say there are many ways to God.

1) Jesus says – Only ONE DOOR!

C) This is crucial for Christianity. It is not so for other religions.

1) It would make little difference to most of the world's religions if their founder were someone else, or even if they had no founder at all;

D) for essentially they are collections of spiritual truths (or claims to truth) and methods, all of which could exist without their founder.

1) They needed someone to discover them, of course.

But the point is that anyone could have discovered them { Taught them

A) This is the nature of the world's religions.

B) Christianity is not in this category. Nor is Jesus like these other religious figures.

1) Jesus did not claim merely to know the truth; he said that he is the truth.

2) He did not merely show the way to God; he said that he is the way.

C) Therefore, within Christianity, if there is no Christ, there is no way to God, no truth about God, and no Validity!

1) And if Christ is not exactly who He claimed to be The only begotten Son of God who is One with the Father –

D) Who became a man in order to save Man - Christianity doesn't work!

ILLUS: Joseph Damien was a nineteenth-century missionary who ministered to people with leprosy on the island of Molokai, Hawaii. Those suffering grew to love him and revered the sacrificial life he lived out before them.

One morning before Damien was to lead daily worship, he was pouring some hot water into a cup when the water swirled out and fell onto his bare foot. It took him a moment to realize that he had not felt any sensation. Gripped by the sudden fear of what this could mean, he poured more hot water on the same spot. No feeling whatsoever.

Damien immediately knew what had happened. As he walked tearfully to deliver his sermon, no one at first noticed the difference in his opening line. He normally began every sermon with, "*My fellow believers*." But this morning he began with, "*My fellow lepers*."

In a greater measure Jesus came into this world knowing what it would cost him.

He bore in his pure being the marks of evil, that we might be made pure.

No one else has been able to do what Jesus Christ has done, and for this reason Jesus COULD declare Himself to be the **only DOOR to God!**

In V.8 Jesus contrast himself with the religious leaders of that day and of the past in Israel –

A) All who came before me were thieves and robbers

B) The all is not all inclusive – for there were plenty of God leaders in Israel's History – who had the heart of the true Shepherd

1) David – Man after my heart –

C) The purpose of those leaders was to point to a coming shepherd

But there were others who had been appointed to lead God's people – Title Shepherds – not shepherds at all. False shepherds

A) There are two kinds of such men, and Jesus uses two different words to describe them. Thieves and robbers

B) The first word is *kleptēs*, from which we get our word *kleptomaniac*.

1) It refers to one who steals cunningly or by stealth.

C) Marked by subtle deceptions – little twistings of truth to lead people astray –

1) Satan's tactic in the garden.

The other word is *lēstēs*, for which we have no English derivative.

A) It refers to one who steals by violence.

B) Thus, if we may imagine the first word to refer to someone who carries off department store merchandise under a coat,

1) the second would refer to those who might use guns to rob a bank.

C) Those who are much more aggressive { Violent and aggressive in their desire to control others.

D) Several times in the OT God CONDEMNS the leaders of Israel for being that kind of false Shepherd

Jeremiah 10:21

The shepherds have become dull-hearted,
And have not sought the LORD;
Therefore they shall not prosper,
And all their flocks shall be scattered.

Jeremiah 23:1-3

"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD. 2 Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the LORD.

Probably the most pointed passage is in Ezekiel 34 – too long to read

A) But there the Lord indicts the Leaders of Israel – for

1) Feeding themselves instead of the people

2) Taking care of their own needs and ignoring the needs of the people.

3) Neglecting the sick, the weak, and those in bondage.

4) And for not protecting the sheep & allowing them to become scattered.

Contrast Shepherd from thieves and robbers

Thieves take – shepherd gives

Thieves use – shepherd cares

Butcher drives – Shepherd leads

The Shepherd is consumed with the Sheep – He is consumed with their well Being.

A) His desire is their health / comfort / their satisfaction and growth

B) Spiritually the same – Colossians – Paul said – Our desire is to present every man complete in Christ.

C) True Shepherds seek to serve – not to be served!

D) #1 Teaches us that there is one door.

Speed up a little here

#2 Teaches us that the way to God is simple:

A) A "door" speaks of easy ingress and is contrasted from the high walls in which it is set.

B) There are no difficult walls which have to be scaled before the anxious sinner can obtain access to God.

1) No, Christ is the "door" into His presence.

C) One simple step and those who are on the outside are now within

1) One simple act of faith – One prayer !

D) The soul that believes God's testimony to the truth of salvation by Christ alone, at once enters God's presence.

A door open for any man!

A) Jesus indicates this in verse 9: **"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.**

B) There is a place in the Sheepfold of God for every man – entrance is easy – the Door – just have to enter.

C) Jesus doesn't force anyone to be His sheep.

#3 He describes the benefits for those who come. 3 things

First, Jesus says that anyone who enters in will be saved.

Saved from What?

1) Penalty of Sin – Jesus paid

- 2) Power of sin – Set free BONDAGE
- 3) Presence of Sin – Future - HEAVEN

Second, Jesus promises that anyone who enters in will be safe- Go in and out

A) To go "in and out" is a figurative way to express perfect freedom and security.

B) In those times when the city was under siege or the walls were broken down – the people of Israel were shut in. { **Couldn't go in and out**

1) They moved about in constant fear – Complete absence of Freedom and Security.

C) Always worrying – Full of Anxiety!

"Fear is the greatest enemy of our Faith" - RP

Did you know that over 89 million people every year suffer regularly from anxiety attacks.

A) Single worry if they are ever going to get married

B) Married worry – are they going to have kids

C) **Before we have them we worry** – about being good parents / will we be able to take care of them

D) When they **are little we worry about their health** – how they are going to grow

1) **When they become a little older – we worry about their schooling / are they learning**

E) **Little older still** – we start to worry about – their friends – who they are hanging out w/ - Will they walk w/ the Lord

F) **Older still** – we worry about will they get married & to who / what kind of Job will they have

- 1) We worry if they are ever going to get out of the house – and then after marriage we worry – **are they going to have to move back in**

G) Then as the **kids get older** they start to worry about the parents health

- 1) Will we be able to take care of THEM

It is easy to be overwhelmed by life.

A) We worry about the economy – How am I going to make it?

B) Am I going to lose my Job

C) How am I going to send my kids to college ?

- 1) What about my health –
- 2) What about retirement

D) Honest easy to look at all of that especially as we get older and think **what am I going to do?**

Worry and fear have a profound affect on our lives

A) Affects our Worship – Distracts us!

Fear and worry affect our service

A) Becomes such a distraction we are unable to Serve others

B) Fireman with his suitcase full of his problems

- 1) What use – is he going to be

Affects our relationships with others. – Agitated and uptight.

A) When I start thinking about how I need to fix something – **Some problem here** / home: I can get really agitated.

B) Been asked 100 times { and Just recently – How do you handle hearing about so many problems

- 1) People's lives messed up by sin. – How deal with that ? How does that just not destroy and depress you.
- 2) It is grieving – Heart breaks – Sometimes great tears

C) **Involves 2 things** – One gift – Those called .

- 1) **Also a choice** – Choose not to dwell on things I have no control over.

Approach – I am going to Share truth / Love / Pray –

A) But I realize they **are HIS SHEEP** – Beyond loving / sharing truth and praying – The rest is up to HIM!

B) There is a lot of freedom in that – Able to sleep at night and not be overwhelmed by problems

C) But you know what makes me lose sleep – is the things that I can change.

1) IF I can just get so and so to do this – That person to follow thru

D) That is what drives me crazy – Start to worry – uptight

But if I can remember – I have a Shepherd – w/ me For me/ Lead me / direct me – teach me

A) **Believe His Promises** 2 Corinthians 1:20 – All the Promises yes and Amen – Certain and true in Christ

B) **Philippians 4:19**

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

1 Peter 5:7 **“casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”**

C) There is safety in that – Security in that –

1) Freedom – He is going to do His thing –

2) **Difference floating down stream / swimming up**

Third, he also promised that they would be *satisfied*

A) In and out they are going to be Satisfied -

B) This is a beautiful description of the Shepherds care and leading

1) **Wherever He leads me – Satisfied**

C) Paul said Phil 4:11 - I have learned to be content

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1) David Psa 23 The Lord is my shepherd ...want

The Sheep find pasture whether in the sheepfold or out of it

A) Today we are in the enclosed sheep fold – it is good for us to be here.

B) But we are not meant to live here- **though sometimes it is tempting**

1) **Worship sweet** – I want to work at the Church – nothing like what they pictured

C) If we tried to stay here we would get severely unhealthy

1) **Like the sheep – important to exercise**

D) There are muscles that we just can't exercise here

1) Home

2) Your work

Also we would fight – start to bite and devour each other.

A) Familiarity breeds contempt

Finding pasture speaks of being sustained and satisfied both in the Church and outside the Church

A) Coming to that place of understanding your purpose in being on this planet = Serve God

B) Tomorrow you are going out into your world

1) Work – Find pasture – satisfaction – not just in a pay Check – Job fulfillment

C) Purpose – You have been placed there by God

D) Unique opportunity to affect your world

1) Be a representative of the Good Shepherd

Here is what we need to remember –

A) People all around us – like sheep with out a shepherd –

B) Not content – worried – striving -