

Episode #1-39 – The Sheep and the Fold

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We have been considering the sheep and the Shepherd, and have seen that the Lord is the Shepherd and Israel are the sheep. We can learn of His love from this beautiful illustration, and realize that He loves us the same way. Yet, we are not the sheep, and should not try to steal this illustration for ourselves when it is not talking about us.

III. The Good Shepherd. John 10:1-18.

- A. V.3. Hear = listen and respond. The sheep would recognize their own shepherd's voice, become attached, and only follow Him. John 1:43.
- B. V.4. He leads them to good pasture. Do we know His voice to follow Him?
- C. V.5. Sheep are skittish, do not like new things, and so flee from the voice of a newcomer. Let us have knowledge to flee from one who speaks contrary to Him.
- D. V.6. Not a parable, Greek = "wayside saying." Means using as an illustration things common to everyday life. They understood the figure, but not meaning.
- E. V.7. Now He changes the illustration. In verses 1-3 He entered by door, now He is the door. Illustrations are this way. They can be altered to bring forth other truths.
- F. V.8. Thieves and robbers are those who lure away from God. Not talking about those God sent, like Moses and the prophets, for they did not claim to be the Shepherd.
- G. V.9. Going in and out=the normal practice of life. Refers to Ezekiel 34.
- H. V.10. False shepherds came to harm the sheep. The Lord gives them more abundant life. A reference to the eonian life we have heard about before.
- I. V.11. The Lord Jesus is the good Shepherd. The one promised in the Old Testament. There, Yahweh was the Shepherd. Christ is Jehovah. Gives His life. Proves real care for His sheep, Israel. Let us not be jealous of them! Life=soul, gives soul for sheep.
- J. V.12. The one tending them for money would not risk his soul for sheep!
- K. V.13. Why not? Because only in it for money. Like daycares cannot care like parents.
- L. V.14. He repeats this for emphasis. I pray we know Him as well, and He us!
- M. V.15. He claims equal knowledge with the Father. Must be God, only God can know
- N. V.16. Many insist this is Gentiles, brought into the fold with Israel.
 - 1. Matthew 15:21-28. Gentiles are dogs, not sheep.
 - 2. Scattered sheep were Israelites scattered throughout the world. Ezekiel 34.
 - 3. No "greater sheepfold." Israel was the fold, others were in the open air.
 - 4. The sheep outside heard and were brought in as the word went out in Acts.
- O. V.17. Not the only reason. We have no such choice when we die!
- P. V.18. No such thing as "Christ-killers." He has authority (*exousia*). We don't.

IV. They respond to the teaching. John 10:19-21.

- A. V.19. John 9:40-41, said in the presence of the Pharisees. A division again.
- B. V.20. Some thought He had a demon, others He was crazy. Why listen to either?
- C. V.21. Others thought better: considered the healing of the blind man. Remember purpose of John: that we hear and believe Who He is. Do you see? Do you believe?

V. Conclusion: The Lord had a close relationship with His sheep. We need that same kind of relationship with God ourselves! He had a fold to protect them, the land of Israel. Our fold is our faith in Christ. Do we believe in Him? Are we in the fold? Are we in Christ?