

VBS week: no congregational handout; the notes following are a sketchy and summary outline only.

-{1}. **John 10:1-18.** . . . . . **The Good Shepherd**

A. Introduction

1. the context of John 9

- a. we miss something if we take Jesus' words in isolation, so look back
- b. at Jesus just having healed the blind man
- c. The religious ruler put that man out of the temple for his testimony
- d. Jesus' had a follow-up visit with the man leading him to faith
- e. The Pharisees listening had their question, "are we blind, too?"
- f. Jesus now speaks very pointed words to these Jewish religious rulers

2. the Shepherd & the shepherds of Israel

a. The Lord was Israel's shepherd

- (A) "Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel, Thou who dost lead Joseph like a flock; Thou who art enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth!" (Psalms 80:1)
- (B) "Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture." (Psalms 100:3)

b. the king, priests, prophets were the Lord's under-shepherds

- (A) Read excerpts from Ezekiel 34:1-24 with comments
  - (1) the sorry state of the shepherds at that time
  - (2) God as their shepherd, and the coming good shepherd
  - (3) "2 Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to those shepherds, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock? 3 You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat sheep without feeding the flock. 4 Those who are sickly you have not strengthened, the diseased you have not healed, the broken you have not bound up, the scattered you have not brought back, nor have you sought for the lost; but with force and with severity you have dominated them.'" (Ezekiel 34:2-4)
  - (4) "11 For thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. 12 As a shepherd cares for his herd in the day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy

day." (Ezekiel 34:11-12)

- (5) "22 therefore, I will deliver My flock, and they will no longer be a prey; and I will judge between one sheep and another. 23 Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd. 24 "And I, the Lord, will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken." (Ezekiel 34:22-24)

(B) these shepherds had failed, seeking only to enrich themselves

c. the religious rulers: priests, scribes, Pharisees, were to be God's under-shepherds in NT

(A) "2 saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; 3 therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them." (Matthew 23:2-3)

(B) so they, too, failed to do what God called them to do

(C) ""Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit."" (Matthew 15:14)

d. so Jesus' words are prophetic like Ezekiel's, setting before these men the kind of shepherds that they should be, and then showing that He Himself is that Good Shepherd foretold by Ezekiel

B. Jesus describes a true shepherd . . . . . 10:1-5

1. The right of entrance into the fold – vv 1-2

a. "1 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep."

b. an uncovered space

c. a wall around with an opening for the door

d. more than one flock could be in a specific fold

e. fold had a door-keeper who knew each shepherd

f. coming in that way identifies him as shepherd – care-giver, protector

2. The shepherd & sheep recognize one another – vv 3-4

a. "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 When he puts forth all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice."

b. at night, the porter has charge of the sheep

c. they hear and heed his voice; love and trust the shepherd

- d. even now eastern shepherds name each sheep (cow-herds, "Bossy")
- e. sometimes a shepherd had to thrust out a lingering sheep!
- f. not driven, like cattle, but led by the one calling them

3. Trained they will not follow a stranger – v 5

- a. "And a stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers."
- b. the shepherd of another flock, nor, a thief or robber
- c. they will "in no wise follow" - emphatic
- d. trained rather to flee as they would from a wolf
- e. Christian pastors should teach the Scriptures to train the same way

C. These false shepherds didn't understand. . . . . 10:6

1. this was a lesson for "Jews" – i.e., the Jewish religious rulers

- a. "This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them."
- b. spoken in form of a proverb
- c. to show difference between Pharisees & God's ideal shepherds

2. "it went right over their heads"

- a. spiritually insensitive they failed to see how they failed as shepherds
- b. "had been speaking" – this record may only be a summary

D. Jesus is the good shepherd . . . . . 10:7-18

1. He is clearly distinguished from thieves & robbers (vv 7-10)

- a. Those who have previously made the claim are false (v 7) – "Jesus therefore said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep."  
 (A) Jesus is not only the shepherd by day, but the door by night  
 (B) 24/7 protection
- b. all preceding claimants are false (v 8) – "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them."  
 (A) yet the sheep have been preserved from such by God's grace

- (B) not hear – not listen – not follow
  - c. the spiritual application (v 9) – “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”
    - (A) the one with the right of entrance to the fold, give the right of entrance to heaven to those who enter by Him
    - (B) He opens the way to future things
      - (1) salvation
      - (2) entrance into the kingdom of God
      - (3) freedom in that kingdom
      - (4) all the blessing of living in the pasture land
  - d. radically different purposes (v 10) – “The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.”
    - (A) thief: steal, kill (sacrifice), destroy
    - (B) Jesus: give life, abundant life – nothing too good for His sheep
2. He is distinguished from a hired hand (vv 11-13)
- a. shepherding is His life’s purpose (v 11) – “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”
    - (A) good – not simply morally, ethically, judicially good
    - (B) good – in the sense of fine, beautiful, attractive
    - (C) and His goodness shows in that He does not even spare His own life but lays it down willingly for the sheep
  - b. the one who is in it only for a wage has a different attitude (v 12) – “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”
    - (A) at the sight of danger to the flock he abandons them
    - (B) his interest is only in number one
    - (C) when interviewing a candidate for a pastor, what is his reason for seeking the position?
  - c. the good shepherd’s love is for the sheep (v 13) – “He flees because he is a hireling, and is not concerned about the sheep.”
    - (A) the hired man’s love is for himself
3. The shepherd & sheep recognize one another (vv 14-16)
- a. He knows us, we know him (v 14) – “I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me,”

- (A) truly understanding who the other person is
  - (B) not only *savoir* knowledge (of a fact, truth, &c), but *connaître* knowledge (familiarity, experiential, personal, intimacy)
  - b. knowledge as between God the Father & Son (v 15) – “even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”
    - (A) deep, intense, eternal, united
    - (B) the evidence: the Son’s sacrificial entrance into the world
      - (1) carrying out the Father’s salvation plan
  - c. Going beyond the Jewish nation, now (v 16) – “And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd.”
    - (A) spoken in hidden fashion (cf. When Paul made his defence in front of the hostile Jewish crowd, all was alright until he said, “21 “And He (Jesus) said to me, ‘Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’” 22 And they listened to him up to this statement, and then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he should not be allowed to live!”” (Acts 22:21-22)
    - (B) Jesus did not come into the world to deliver the Jews from Rome but to deliver mankind from sin – this upsets the Jewish ego of being God’s chosen race.
4. Jesus, Son of God, took on this voluntarily (vv 17-18)
- a. a reason for love between Father & Son (v 17) – “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.”
    - (A) the Son’s obedience
    - (B) the certainty of the resurrection
  - b. Jesus’ authority and choice in the cross (v 18) – “No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”
    - (A) Pilate had no power except that which God had allotted to him
    - (B) by the Father’s command, both the crucifixion & resurrection
  - c. this deliberate act of the Son purchased us as His flock and made Him our Good shepherd

## E. Conclusion

1. “pastor” an English word (coming from the Latin) that means “shepherd”
  - a. for many pastors or ministers, it is just a job

- b. you will need great wisdom and divine guidance in seeking one
  - c. a "hired hand" (hireling) is that not just because he gets paid, but because his chief incentive is his salary
  - d. seek a man who has had God's irresistible call upon his life
  - e. then remember, "The labourer is worthy of his wages" Luke 10:7
2. look for a pastor who has the shepherd qualities that are in Christ
- a. this tenth chapter of John gives us a picture to follow
  - b. one who takes this admonition to heart: "2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." (1 Peter 5:2-4)
3. "20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, 21 equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21)

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AV            Authorized (King James) Version  
NAS         New American Standard version © 1960, 1995 The Lockman Foundation (usually the 1995 edition)  
NKJV        New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers

Some of my favourite commentaries and resources used in the preparation of this message are identified as follow:

RWP    -    Robertson's Word Pictures of the New Testament, by Dr. A. T. Robertson  
USB    -    Nestle's Greek text, as published 1958