

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

27) The Good Shepherd

"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. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them'

(John 10:1-6)

1) There are thieves and robbers

- ✓ **Jesus said that leaders who do not enter the fold by the door are thieves and robbers**
- ✓ **A thief is subtle, cunning; a robber steals with violence or intimidation. Both are concerned with personal gain; none for the welfare of the sheep**
- ✓ **Jesus, the good shepherd, entered by the door**
- ✓ **The sheep know the shepherd's voice. They would not respond to the voice of a stranger**
- ✓ **He knows them by name**

'Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly"'

(John 10:7-10)

2) Jesus is the door of the sheep

- ✓ **False teachers always harm the sheep**
- ✓ **'Most assuredly' is emphatic – 'I and I alone'**
- ✓ **As the sheep entered the fold, under the rod, he would care for them**
- ✓ **Then he would lay across the doorway to guard against intruders**
- ✓ **Those who preceded Him were the false 'deliverers', including the Pharisees**
- ✓ **To 'go in and out' depicts safety, 'The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore'(Psa.121:8)**

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd”

(John 10:11-16)

3) Jesus is the Good Shepherd

- ✓ **Wolves were the main danger for sheep. The hireling flees when a wolf approaches and so the sheep are in danger and are also scattered**
- ✓ **The hireling's main concern is his pay. *'Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock'* (1 Pet.5:2-3)**
- ✓ **When false teachers appear, the hireling does nothing. He prefers peace to confrontation**
- ✓ **A true shepherd is prepared to sacrifice, and even risk his own life for the sheep**

- ✓ **In Ezek.34 we read about under-shepherds who were appointed by God, yet were more concerned with feeding themselves from the sacrifices and helping themselves to their wool. *'Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock'* (Ezek.34:2-3)**
- ✓ **God said these would be removed and He would regather the sheep under a good shepherd**

- ✓ **The intention of thieves, robbers and hirelings is self-focused. The focus of a true shepherd is on the sheep. The shepherd cares for the sheep**
- ✓ **Jesus didn't just risk Himself for them, He gave His life for them**
- ✓ **Thieves steal from the sheep. Strangers do not know the sheep. Hirelings do not love the sheep. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep**
- ✓ **The sheep enter by the door. They flee from strangers and listen only to the shepherd's voice. As the Father knows the Son, and as the Son knows the Father, so Christ knows His sheep, and the sheep know Him**

At this time all of Jesus' disciples were all Jews. But Gentiles would also be brought in

'But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father'

(Eph.2:13-18)

'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus'
(Gal.3:28)

“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.” Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. And many of them said, “He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?” Others said, “These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

(John 10:17-21)

4) The Father loves the Son, because as a good shepherd He was obedient unto death

***The Father loves the Son for His total obedience to His will, even laying down His life**

***His enemies again said He was demon-possessed, but many of the Jews believed in Him**

***False shepherds do not accept the truth about Jesus. They create a religion without Him, or in which He is de-centralized, thus without power**

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, (Matt.9:16; Lk.15:4; Lk.12:32; Mk.14:27)

- ✓ In His death we see Him as the 'Good Shepherd' who He gives is life for the sheep
- ✓ In His resurrection we see Him as the 'Great Shepherd', *'Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant...'* (Heb.13:20)
- ✓ In His Second Coming we see Him as the 'Chief Shepherd', *'...when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away'* (1 Pet.5:4)