

“Jesus: The Good Shepherd”

The Vine Series... John 15:5

SCRIPTURE

John 10: 1-16 (NIV)

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. ^[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

Subject Question: What three characteristics does Jesus teach concerning himself in the role of our Good Shepherd?

Compliment answer: He is the Speaking Shepherd, He is the Sheltering Shepherd, and He is the Sacrificing Shepherd.

Big Idea: The Three characteristics that Jesus teaches concerning his role as our Good Shepherd are: He is the Speaking Shepherd, He is the Sheltering Shepherd, and He is the Sacrificing Shepherd.

Homiletical Idea: “God is Leading”

Purpose: I want the congregation to explore Jesus understanding of His role as our personal Good shepherd.

Introduction: This is the eight in a series that we will be exploring concerning the passage in John's gospel where Jesus states, *I am the vine, you are the branches, He who abides in me and I in them, He it is who bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.* We will be looking at what it means to be "abide-ers" in this series. John has shown us Jesus' roles as Son of God in Chapter one, Son of Man in Chapter two, Divine Teacher in Chapter three, Soul Winner in chapter four, Great Physician in Chapter five, Bread of Life in Chapter six, Source of Living water in Chapter seven, Sympathetic Saviour in Chapter eight, and Light of the World in chapter nine. Today, we continue Jesus' discussion of Himself being the Light of the World as the scripture now sheds "light" on Jesus' ability to personally communicate with and to, as well as lead those who have been "enlightened" about Himself as a result of His redemptive work done in the hearts of His chosen and cherished flock.

(Hear Him Speak; Let Him Lead)

Groundwork: (Vs.1-6) Gill's Commentary: Verily, verily, I say unto you.... To the Scribes and Pharisees, who had taken it ill that they should be thought to be blind; and who had cast out the man that Christ had cured of blindness, for speaking in favor of him; and who had traduced Christ as an impostor, and a deceiver, and set up themselves to be the shepherds of the flock, and the guides and rulers of the people; all which occasion the following parable; the design of which is to show, that Christ is the true and only shepherd, who was appointed, called, and sent of God, whose the sheep are, whose voice they hear, and know, and whom they follow; and that they, the Scribes and Pharisees, were thieves and robbers, and not shepherds of the flock; who were not sent of God, nor did they come in at the right door, but in another way, and usurped a domination, which did not belong to them.

He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold: the sheepfold, with the Jews, was called and this, as their writers say (o), was an enclosure sometimes in the manner of a building, and made of stone, and sometimes was fenced with reeds, and in it was a large door, at which the shepherd went in and out, when he led in, or brought out the sheep. At tithing, which was done in the sheepfold, they made a little door, so that two lambs could not come out together; and to this enclosure is the allusion here; and by the "sheepfold" is meant the church of God; see John 10:16; and a good fold it is, Ezekiel 34:14. The church may be compared to a sheepfold, because it is separated from the world: it is where the people of God, and sheep of Christ are gathered together; where there is a strict union between them; have society with each other; keep one another warm and comfortable; and where

they are fed and nourished, and are preserved; and where they lie down and have rest; and which, like a sheepfold, will be taken down, and not always continue in the form it now is: and by "the door" into it, is meant Christ himself, as appears from John 10:7; faith in him, a profession of him, and authority from him. Now he that does not come into the church of God, whether as a member of it, or officer in it, at this door, but climbeth up some other way; by hypocrisy and deceit: or, like the prophets of old, who ran and were not sent; prophesied when they were not spoken to, but took their place and post by usurpation: the same is a thief and a robber; steals into the church, or into an office in it, and robs God or Christ of their power and authority; and such were the Scribes and Pharisees: the Persic version renders the words, "whoever does not introduce the sheep through the door of the sheepfold, know that that man is a thief and a robber"; which these men were so far from doing, that they would not suffer those that were entering to go in, Matthew 23:13. The difference between a thief and a robber, with the Jews, was, that the former took away a man's property privately, and the latter openly (p).

- A. He is the Speaking Shepherd. (vs.7-10) ⁷ *Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. ^[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*
- B. One of the most awe-inspiring facts that occurred when you came to Christ, was the assurance that you became a child of His Father and brother/sister of his, communication with God was and is possible. Jesus cares for his own. As the scripture states:
 1. Romans 8:15-17 ¹⁵ *The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."* ¹⁶ *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*
- C. If God is speaking, the first issue of course is to ask, do we want to hear? Are we willing to listen? Are we expecting Him to speak to us? What are some of the ways that Christ speaks to us on a personal level?
 1. Henry Blackabee in Hearing God's Voice: God is speaking, and we *can* hear His voice. Christianity is a relationship; every relationship is established and maintained through communication. It is vital that we learn to hear God's voice, so that we may deepen our relationship with our heavenly Father.

2. God Speaks to Us in Many Ways.

- God Speaks to Us Through His Word

The Bible is one of God's provisions to equip us to do His will. (See II Timothy 3:16–17.) God's Word is alive; it is active in our lives. The Bible is an absolutely essential part of your walk with God. You must not neglect His Word. It is one way that He speaks to you personally, powerfully—today. (See I Thessalonians 1:5, 2:13.)

- God Speaks to Us Through Our Prayers
- God Often Speaks in a “Still, Small Voice”
- God Speaks Through Circumstances
- God Speaks Through Others

One of the best places to find individuals who can give you Godly counsel is your local church. Even if your fellow church members do not directly give you counsel, God can use their words to reveal or confirm His will, as the Holy Spirit works in your lives. Also, as a member of a local church, you can observe what God is saying to the entire church. God often will direct you personally through the input of others who are regularly in Christian fellowship with you.

With God, Nothing Is Impossible! God is not limited in any way. He is not restricted to certain methods of communication with His children.

D. What then is the “life to the full” that Jesus talks about? Pulpit

Commentary

1. I came that they might have life, and that they might have it abundantly; more even than they can possibly use. This is one of the grandest of our Lord's claims. He gives like God from overflowing stores (Titus 3:6). Those who receive life from him have within them perennial sources of life for others - fullness of being (see notes, John 7:38; John 4:14). One of the differentiae of "life" is "abundance" of supply beyond immediate possibility of use. Life has the future in its arms. Life propagates new life. Life has untold capacities about it - beauty, fragrance, strength, growth, variety, reproduction, resistance to death, continuity, eternity. In the Logos is life - and Christ came to give it, to communicate "life to the non-living, to the dead in trespasses, and to those in their graves" (John 5:26).

(Hear Him Speak; Let Him Lead)

- A. He is the Sheltering Shepherd. (vs. 11-13) ¹¹ *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.*
- B. Jesus laid down his life at Calvary for our Salvation. But He was raised to new life for our eternal justification. But more, for our future glorification. And even more for our present Protection. Jesus says, As

Their Good Shepherd, I protect my flock, I care for my own, I love them so much that if it were necessary, I would walk the Via Delarosa again...

C. How secure are we in Jesus? Can we take shelter in Him? Absolutely!

D. Consider these Bible verses:

Bible Quotes That Show God Will Never Leave Us

- **Matthew 28:18-20** *And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*
- **Luke 12:32** *“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*
- **Hebrews 13:5** *Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

Verses About Protection from Evil

- **Isaiah 41:10** *fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*
- **Isaiah 54:17** *no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD.”*
- **Psalms 46:1** *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*
- **Psalms 91:1-3** *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.*
- **Psalms 121:7-8** *The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. 8 The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*
- **2 Timothy 4:18** *The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

(Hear Him Speak; Let Him Lead)

- A. He is the Sacrificing Shepherd. (vs. 14-16) ¹⁴ *“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.*
- B. Ever wonder why Jesus would keep stating that He is the Good Shepherd and then come back and say something like *I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.*

- C. Who is this other flock? Gentiles? Maybe. Believers on different planets? Possibly, though probably not. Pre-incarnation folks that Jesus would visit after His crucifixion? Could be! In a way, I think Jesus kept it purposely vague. He knows who these folks are. But, at best, we can only guess.
- D. And in way, it simply is a sideways message to you and me to be not only His sacrificing sheep, but also to be like Him... sacrificing shepherds, good shepherds, godly shepherds, to the flock called simply “this generation; our generation.” To any and all whom, for as far as we know, are indeed the ones who make up the sheep in the “different sheep pen” that are unconsciously but unquestionably looking to find and straining to hear the True Shepherd of their souls.

(Hear Him Speak; Let Him Lead)