

April 7th 2024 | John 10 | Recognizing Jesus' Voice

Read John 9

- What difference can we see between Jesus and the pharisees in the way they led and ministered to people?
- What do you think is the meaning of Jesus healing this man's blindness especially on the Sabbath?
- Jesus was often reviled, but never ruffled. "One of the things worthy to be noticed in our Lord's character is his wonderful quiet of spirit, especially his marvelous calmness in the presence of those who misjudged, and insulted, and slandered him." (Spurgeon)
- What was the response of the blind man upon Jesus putting mud on his eyes?

This part of Jesus' testimony while on earth came right before He spoke the discourse of the Good Shepherd. It was a clear example of the difference between Himself as Good Shepherd and those 'other shepherds'.

Read through John Chapter 10

- Pay attention to the ongoing comparison between Good Shepherd/Thief, Robber, Hired Hand (other Shepherds)

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

10 "Truly, truly I say to you, the one 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 the one who enters by the door** is a shepherd of the sheep. **3** To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep **listen to his voice**, and he **calls his own sheep by name and leads them out**. **4** When he puts all his own *sheep* outside, **he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice**. **5** However, **a stranger they simply will not follow**, but will flee from him, because they **do not know the voice of strangers**." **6** Jesus told them this figure of speech, but they did not understand what the things which He was saying to them [a]meant.

7 So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All those who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came so that they would have life, and [b]have it abundantly.

11 “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters the flock. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and does not care about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd, and I know My own, and My own know Me, 15 just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice; and they will become one flock, with one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it back. 18 No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it back. This commandment I received from My Father.”

19 Dissension occurred again among the Jews because of these words. 20 Many of them were saying, “He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?” 21 Others were saying, “These are not the words of one who is demon-possessed. A demon cannot open the eyes of those who are blind, can it?”

Jesus Asserts His Deity

22 At that time the [c]Feast of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem; **23** it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple *area*, in the portico of Solomon. **24** The Jews then surrounded Him and *began* saying to Him, “How long [d]will You keep us in suspense? If You are the [e]Christ, tell us plainly.” **25** Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me. **26** But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. **27** My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; **28** and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. **29** [f]My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father’s hand. **30** I and the Father are [g]one.”

- This lesson is taught as a ‘figure of speech’, he is talking to his listeners
 - a. Owing sheep, shepherding was something people of those times understood. Sheep were valuable, basic to the economy back then. It was hospitable to slaughter a sheep for a guest, it was an expensive sacrifice
 - b. A shepherd is one of the lowest professions of the time, yet in the scriptures we see this metaphor used to describe God. Jesus is THE TRUE, GOOD Shepherd. Who came to us as a mere child, was compared to a Shepherd, the lowest of the low, even though He was the Son of God, King of Kings; to save and redeem creation.
 - c. What does this tell us about Jesus’ character?
- What makes Jesus the GOOD SHEPHERD?
 - a. **SHEPHERD** (רעה, *r’h*; ποιμήν, *poimēn*). A common occupation in the ancient Mediterranean. Responsible for leading, feeding, protecting, and procuring rest for their flock. Used metaphorically throughout the Bible to denote leaders and God. (Lexham Dictionary)
 - b. Shepherds were responsible for the physical survival and welfare of their own or their master’s flocks. In comparison with goats, which tended to fend for themselves, sheep depended on the shepherd to find PASTURE for them (cf. Ezk. 34:2, 9, 13f), and they required “quiet” water (Ps. 23:3). Shepherds also had to provide shelter, medication, aid in lambing time,

and provision for lameness and weariness. Without the shepherd the sheep were helpless (see Nu. 27:17; 1 K. 22:17; 2 Ch. 18:16; Zec. 10:2; Mt. 9:36 par Mk. 6:34).

P. L. Garber, "Sheep; Shepherd," ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Revised (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1979–1988), 463–464.

- If we are in His Flock, we are secure and taken care of. Our needs are met because He is our shepherd

- c. The shepherd was expected to count them, one by one, calling each by its own name (Jn. 10:3), both morning and evening, for he had to render accounting for any that were missing (Gen. 31:39; cf. 1 S. 25:15f, 21). The responsible shepherd did not kill and eat his sheep, no matter how rigorous conditions might become (Gen. 31:38–40; Ezk. 34:2f, 10; Am. 3:12).

P. L. Garber, "Sheep; Shepherd," ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Revised (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1979–1988), 464.

- d. In the OT God is the supreme "Good Shepherd"; all the admirable personal characteristics of shepherds are His superlatively. His activities as "Shepherd" of His people include feeding, watering, leading, watching over, caring for, seeking out, rescuing, and gathering His flock; bringing back the strayed, binding up the crippled, strengthening the weak, and carrying the lambs in His bosom (see esp Ps. 23; Isa. 40:11; Ezk. 34:11–24; also Ps. 95:7; 100:3; Mic. 7:14; Zec. 10:3; 11:7). P. L. Garber, "Sheep; Shepherd," ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Revised (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1979–1988), 464.
- e. Matthew 9:36 Jesus has compassion bc they are like sheep without a shepherd
- f. 1 Peter 5:1-14: The metaphor of shepherd was used to describe other religious leaders, or governmental or entities of authority among God's people.

- i. We learn that just as Jesus is the ultimate, true and good shepherd, God calls on pastors and other leaders to minister to His sheep in the same way Jesus led His flock. Isaiah 63:11; Jeremiah 23:2
- What makes us HIS SHEEP?
 - a. This reference of God's people referred to as sheep is used all throughout the OT and NT
 - b. **Psalm 95:7** For He is our God, And we are the people of His [b]pasture and the sheep of His hand. Today, [c]if you will hear His voice, **8** Do not harden your hearts as at [d]Meribah (grief), As on the day of [e]Massah in the wilderness (temptation),
 - c. Understanding the Sheep/Shepherd Metaphor:
 - i. Sheep: A measure of wealth, a great sacrifice for the owner should they kill one for a guest or give one away, or sacrifice. Dumb animals, who couldn't survive without the shepherd
 - ii. The voice of the shepherd for the sheep meant, move to safety, direction, food, water, security because without the shepherd they are not capable of finding these things alone. They are completely in danger and vulnerable
- How do we differentiate between His voice vs others
 - a. Thief/robber enter by climbing another way: usurps authority, wants to steal the sheep. The only reason why one would climb in another way was to steal, to overpass the 'authority'=shepherd that laid by the gate
 - b. The Shepherd: He goes through the door (God allows Him to enter), He has permission, free access. Sheep from different shepherds at times would sleep in the same pen and the gatekeeper would only allow those to come and retrieve the sheep.
 - c. Jesus' voice brings us:
 - i. Freedom: Go in and out
 - ii. Provision: Find pasture (& still waters Psalm 23) away from danger
 - iii. Abundant life : satisfaction and contentment

- iv. Salvation: Jesus will lay down His life for us
- v. Unity: one flock one shepherd, there won't be confusion, more than one voice to follow, conflicting voices
- vi. Father and Him know each other, Hebrews 3:6/John 1:18 "No one has seen God at any time; God the only *Son*, who is in the [a]rms of the Father, He has [b]explained *Him*."

d.

- What happens to the sheep that have no shepherd/can't hear his voice
 - a. **Ezekiel 34:5**
- Even though Jesus' voice in our lives may not always or ever be audible, His sheep hear it. If this is hard for you, we want to help you do this! Like anything else, you learn it through experience, through relationship, through Knowing Him intimately. HIS VOICE is recognizable by His character, if the voice you hear contradicts who God is in His trinity, it is not from Him. It will not bring you to do or think or be in anything that is sinful or against Him. That is our parameter
- There are other voices that may want to take His place in your lives, His voice is distinguishable from that of the robber, hired hand. What voices in your life other than His may you be entertaining, or not fleeing from?
- Like sheep in the wilderness, we may not always see where our Shepherd is taking us or calling us to, but as we know Him, we recognize His call and KNOW that He is bringing us to pasture, to still waters, to provision, to security. There is nothing in our being that should response in fear or distrust, because when the
- voice we HEAR AND LISTEN to is Jesus', we have assurance that it will be for our good.

<p>The Good Shepherd</p>	<p>False Teachers</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enters by the door ● Gatekeeper opens the door for Him ● Sheep hear His voice ● He calls his sheep by name ● Leads them out ● Goes before them ● I AM door of the sheep ● Provides salvation and good pasture ● Lays down his life for the sheep ● Lays down His life, takes it back up ● Authority given by the Father ● Give eternal life ● Hold possession of sheep, will not perish ● Father & Shepherd are ONE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climb in by another way ● Thief & Robber ● Voice is NOT recognized ● Zechariah 10:2
<p>Characteristics of His Sheep</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow Shepherd ● Know His Voice ● Will not follow stranger ● But FLEE from stranger ● Do not know voice of stranger ● Do not Listen to others ● May not be of His fold yet, but will know/listen to HIS VOICE ● Depend on Him for existence, survival and welfare 	<p>Not His Sheep (those that don't hear)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Led astray ● Eze 34:6 ● scattered