

## GOD THE SON IS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD

### I. John 10:1-21

A. John 10:1-21 (ESV) is called, "The Good Shepherd Discourse." Jesus has just healed a man blind since birth. Skeptical Pharisees interrogate the man afterwards. His answers confound them. Jesus confounds even more...

1) **V1-7: 1** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. **2** But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. **(God's flock is God's people.)** **3** To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. **5** A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." **6** This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what He was saying to them. **7** So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. **(Shepherds often slept across the entrance of the pen to protect the sheep.)**

2) **V8-9: 8** All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. **(Remember Jesus' audience.)** **9** I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. **(This is the same Jesus who said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to My Father except through Me.")**

3) **V10: 10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. **(Abundant life in quality and quantity.)**

4) **V11-15: 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 does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. **13** He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. **14** I am the good shepherd. 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. **(Jesus doesn't say He is a good shepherd, He says He is THE Good Shepherd. The OT affirms many times over that God is the Shepherd of His people. All these Pharisees understand the connection He's making!)**

5) **V16: 16** And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. **(Gentiles; the likes of you and me! People from every nation, tribe, and tongue!)**

6) **V17-18: 17** For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. **18** No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father." **(Jesus was no victim! He gave up His life freely for us!)**

7) **V19-21: 19** There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. **20** Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to Him?" **21** Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?" **(He's a liar and/or a lunatic! Or maybe, just maybe, He's Lord! It's the 2,000 year old trilemma!)**

B. My Grandpa Slocumb was a sheep farmer, a shepherd in the truest sense. He was the splitting image of Colonel Sanders, just much skinnier. My sister Ronda once chided him that he looked like *the Colonel* and he quipped, "Well I sell lamb chops, not drumsticks!" The bumper sticker on his van read, "Eat Lamb, Wear Wool." His flocks were well cared for and he won countless ribbons at the Ohio State Fair and many county fairs. He raised sheep into his 80s and still used the old fashioned hand shears (*I brought a pair to show you*). In my late teens I got to help out with the feeding, particularly in the winter. Of course the quintessential Shepherd is Jesus. He calls Himself the *Good Shepherd*. Hebrews 13:20 calls Him the *Great Shepherd*. And 1 Peter 5:4 refers to Him as the *Chief Shepherd*. "The Lord is our Shepherd, He takes care of everything we need."

C. Here are some truths and contrasts that Jesus lays out in our text today:

1) Jesus is the Shepherd of His sheep. He feeds and protects them, loves and cares for them. He's always looking out for their highest good. (*Umbrella stand*)

2) There's one way into His sheepfold and He's the door. Don't stumble over the exclusivity of this truth--embrace it! As He calls you to Himself, respond!

3) He *knows* who His sheep are--He *knows* them intimately and totally.

4) His sheep *know* Him--they recognize His voice and respond to His call. They trust Him and they're deeply committed to Him. They love and follow Him.

5) There are those who would do His sheep harm. They don't come to His sheep through Him or on behalf of Him, they seek access to His sheep in ways contrary to His. As agents of Satan, they come subversively and deceptively. They come to steal, kill, and destroy God's very own.

6) Those Christ hasn't chosen to shepherd with Him will abandon the sheep when their welfare is threatened, when the wolf comes or a crisis arises, they flee.

7) Jesus--the Good Shepherd--lays down His life for His sheep and takes it up again! "*Christ Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures. He was buried. He rose again of the third day according to the Scriptures.*" **That's the Gospel in a nutshell!**

**D. God calls some of us to help care for His flock. They're called pastors or elders or overseers. The term *shepherd* is therefore fitting. 1 Peter 5:1-4 (NIV) says: 1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.**

**E. Everybody's a fan of Jesus until they listen to His words. Jesus-fans often snarl at Christians, "We love your Jesus but you're nothing like Him!" Or like Gandhi said, "I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." On the one hand this is absolutely true which is why we need Christ so desperately. And yet many have a concept of Jesus that is far from Biblical. Once they know what Jesus said about this subject or that, they don't like Him so much anymore. Just remember, Jesus never said, 'I am a good shepherd,' He said, "I am THE GOOD SHEPHERD." He never said, 'I am a door,' He said, "I am THE DOOR." He never said, 'I am a way, a bit of truth, and a nice chunk of life,' He said, "I am THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE, no one comes to the Father except through Me." Such audacity! Why? Because He was God the Son. Acts 4:12 (NIV) affirms: *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. (Perhaps it's time to stop rejecting Jesus for His exclusive claims of Deity. Perhaps the time has come to embrace them with all of your heart!)***

\* Close with Prayer...

\* Hebrews 13:20-21 (NIV) is our Benediction verse to take us home today: *20 Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

## [Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

### [John 10:1-21](#) (ESV)

1 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what He was saying to them. 7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by 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 that they may have life and 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 does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. 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. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father." 19 There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. 20 Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to Him?" 21 Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

### [1 Peter 5:1-4](#) (NIV)

1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not

lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. **4** And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

#### **Acts 4:12 (NIV)**

**12** Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

#### **Hebrews 13:20-21 (NIV)**

**20** Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, **21** equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **Film Clips & Other Links**

**I AM-The Good Shepherd - StudentImpact Video**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkzC7IbC5Ns>

**John 10:1-21 - Parable of The Good Shepherd (Clip from "The Gospel of John")**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiQf59px-Ng>

**"I Am the Good Shepherd" - Matt Chandler (Full Sermon)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRN1zQiG7kq>

**"I Am the Good Shepherd" - R.C. Sproul (Full Teaching)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adOB3fbTmms>

**Mesmerizing Mass Sheep Herding**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDQw21ntR64>

**"The Home Game" - Musical Trailer**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kJrZOSiQC4>

#### **Bonus Stuff**

##### **Psalms 23:1-6 (NKJV)**

**1** The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**2** He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

**3** He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

**4** Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

**5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.

**6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

##### **Jeremiah 23:1-8 (ESV)**

**1** "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" declares the Lord. **2** Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for My people: "You have scattered My flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the Lord. **3** Then I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. **4** I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the Lord. **5** "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and He shall reign as King and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. **6** In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which He will be called: 'The Lord is Our Righteousness.' **7** "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when they shall no longer say, 'As the Lord lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' **8** but 'As the Lord lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where He had driven them.' Then they shall dwell in their own land."

##### **Ezekiel 34:1-31 (ESV)**

**1** The word of the Lord came to me: **2** "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves!

Should not shepherds feed the sheep? **3** You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. **4** The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. **5** So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered; **6** they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them. **7** "Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: **8** As I live, declares the Lord God, surely because My sheep have become a prey, and My sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because My shepherds have not searched for My sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed My sheep, **9** therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: **10** Thus says the Lord God, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep. No longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue My sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them. **11** "For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I Myself will search for My sheep and will seek them out. **12** As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out My sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. **13** And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. **14** I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. **15** I Myself will be the shepherd of My sheep, and I Myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. **16** I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. **17** "As for you, My flock, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. **18** Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? **19** And must My sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet? **20** "Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I Myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. **21** Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, **22** I will rescue My flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. **23** And I will set up over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. **24** And I, the Lord, will be their God, and My servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken. **25** "I will make with them a covenant of peace and banish wild beasts from the land, so that they may dwell securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. **26** And I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing, and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing. **27** And the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield its increase, and they shall be secure in their land. And they shall know that I am the Lord, when I break the bars of their yoke, and deliver them from the hand of those who enslaved them. **28** They shall no more be a prey to the nations, nor shall the beasts of the land devour them. They shall dwell securely, and none shall make them afraid. **29** And I will provide for them renowned plantations so that they shall no more be consumed with hunger in the land, and no longer suffer the reproach of the nations. **30** And they shall know that I am the Lord their God with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My people, declares the Lord God. **31** And you are My sheep, human sheep of My pasture, and I am your God, declares the Lord God."