

## **Jesus, the True Shepherd**

### **John 10:1-6**

"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. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 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 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. NKJV

In this passage of John 10 Jesus gives us such a beautiful illustration of His relationship to believers. The Shepherd and His sheep. Hundreds of books have been written and hundreds of thousands of messages preached on this chapter. This is truly one of the dearest passages in all the scripture. In this first section Jesus sets Himself as the only true shepherd and compares Him and His shepherding to those who have fashioned themselves as the shepherds of the flock. This was a definite strike against the Pharisees and even the scribes and priests who should have been good and faithful shepherds but were not.

- I. Jesus is the true and rightful shepherd.
  - A. The illustration of a shepherd.
    1. The oriental shepherd is much different from the sheep owner in America.
    2. They develop a relationship with the sheep for they would never send them to market.
    3. The oriental thinks of sheep like we think of trees.
      - a. You would not cut down a tree to get its fruit.
      - b. You cultivate it and care for it.
      - c. You are careful to not injure it when you pick the fruit.
    4. An observer would never fail to recognize that the shepherd loves and cares very much about his sheep.
  - B. All others were thieves and robbers.
    1. This includes the Pharisees who have taken this job for themselves.
      - a. They were the usurpers of God's flock.
      - b. They did not care for the sheep, but despised the common people as ignorant and unspiritual, as sinners and unclean.
    2. But this included the Priests as well who had become more political than spiritual.
  - C. The true shepherd comes the right way.

1. He is the owner of the sheep.
  2. He cares for the sheep.
  3. He has provided for the sheep.
- D. The true shepherd is recognized by the door keeper.
1. Unlike the others who had to climb over the wall or sneak in another way.
  2. It by right of ownership that the shepherd enters the door.
- II. He describes the wonderful relationship between the shepherd and the sheep.
- A. The sheep hear his voice;
1. There are so many voices today, as there has always been.
  2. The sheep find comfort and confidence in the sound of his voice.
- B. He calls his own sheep by name
1. Who would bother to name the sheep except the shepherd that will have a personal relationship with each one.
  2. To Him we are not a conglomerate, a general group, but we are individuals with different names.
  3. We have had a number of pets over the years, and it is amazing to see how those pets know their names and respond to their names.
  4. Is it any less that God should have an intimate knowledge of each of us and know us at the deepest level.
- C. He leads them out.
1. The oriental shepherd would never drive his sheep, but rather leads them where he would have them to go.
  2. There were not sheep dogs to help for the sheep follow the shepherd.
- D. He goes before them;
- E. The sheep follow him, for they know his voice.
- F. They will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers

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