

## **Jesus is The Good Shepherd**

**Scripture: John 10: 1-21**

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### **I. Introduction**

Our Lord builds his teaching around four figures that are taken from the life of a shepherd. In the first figure, he is clearly setting himself apart as the true shepherd in contrast to the false shepherds. This passage follows immediately on the healing of the man born blind, who had been cast out of the synagogue because of his faith in Jesus. Jesus sees these leaders, these Pharisee rulers of the Jews who had twisted and distorted the teachings of the law, as false shepherds. Jesus called them thieves and robbers.

### **II. The lesson: Jesus is the Good Shepherd**

#### **1. vv. 1&2: A True Shephard Comes in a Legitimate Way.**

Very truly I tell you, not every one among the sheep is a true shepherd. Some are like thieves and robbers. One mark of their being a thief and robber is how they gain entry among the sheep. The idea is that there is a door, a proper way to gain entry. Some climb in some other way. The religious people gained their place among Gods people(Sheep) through personal and political connections, through formal education, through ambition, manipulation and corruption.

A true shepherd comes in the legitimate and designed way: through love, Calling, care, and sacrificial service. Whoever enters not by Jesus into the pastoral office, is none other than a thief and a robber in the sheepfold.

**2. vv. 3-6: The sheep and their shepherd**

In a spiritual picture, Jesus spoke of a door for the sheep gate or pen. It has a Gate keeper, one who watched over the sheep, who came in and who went out. The gate keeper knows the true shepherd, and grants him access. Jesus used this illustration, but the Pharisees did not understand Him.

**3. vv. 7-10: The true shepherd protects and promotes life.**

The false shepherd takes away life. Jesus said he is the gate of the sheep. Jesus is the gate or door to the Christian to have eternal life. You must except Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Through Gods words and direction and our trust in Jesus, we will have a better life and have it more abundantly.

**4. vv. 11-15: The good shepherd will lay down his life for the sheep.**

What Jesus described as a good shepherd is actually a very remarkable shepherd. Shepherds may take risk for the safety of the sheep, but it's rare to find one who is willing to die for their sheep. A hired hand may run away because he is a hired hand and cares not for the sheep.

**5. vv. 16: Jesus speaks of other sheep**

These other sheep are gentile believers, not of the fold of Israel. Jesus said he must bring these sheep also, who would also hear his voice. There will be one flock; A fold of sheep is a part of the flock in it's own Structure or enclosure. A shepherd might separate the sheep into separate groups to care for them better. There is one flock and one shepherd, but Jesus calls his sheep from more than on fold.

6. **vv. 17&18**: **Jesus claims to have power over life and death.**

In this sense, we can say that Jesus raised himself from the dead. He had the power to lay down his life, and he had the power to take it up again. Anyone can lay down his life; only Jesus has the power to take it up again. Because Jesus has the power to take up his own life, it is evident of his Unique relationship with his Father.

7. **vv. 19-21**: **Jesus was accused of being demon possessed and raving mad.**

Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these Sayings. Once again Jesus is shown as the dividing line of humanity. Humanity divides between accepting or rejecting Jesus. Some believed He was who he said he was , others believed that anyone who claimed to be God as Jesus claimed, must be a demon or be mad.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

#### **Jesus is The Good Shepherd**

Just as sheep totally depend on their shepherd for good pastures, lodging and protection, we depend on Jesus. Jesus is also the door we should enter for abundant life on earth and eternal life in heaven. If we enter any other way we are thieves and robbers.