

MY SHEEP KNOW MY VOICE

John 10:1-39

For the past several months we've been studying John's gospel.

Why did John write?

To demonstrate that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of GOD ...so that we might trust Him ...so we might receive eternal life.

Jesus associates Himself with O.T. name of God: YHWH-

In Exod. 3, God met Moses in the wilderness, Moses asked: "When I tell the Israelites: 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' Then what shall I say to them?"

God responds: "I AM who I AM. Tell them, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

In John, Jesus uses that name, "I AM," to describe Himself. 8:58

"Before Abraham was born, I AM!"

He's claiming to be YHWH, God of Israel!

Jews understand. They try to stone Him!

Jesus combines the name with other descriptions of Himself.

In John 6 Jesus claims: "***I AM the Bread of life.***"

He satisfies our need for life and our hunger for God!

In John 10, Jesus adds 2 more "I AM" statements to list:

"I AM the gate of the sheep"

= "I AM the door"

"I AM the Good Shepherd"

Focus of John 10: Jesus is the Good Shepherd

O.T. CONCEPT: GOD IS OUR SHEPHERD

Is. 40:11 "He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms & carries them close to his heart..."

Ps 23 Summary: ***The LORD is my shepherd...*** Because He's my Shepherd: ***I lack NOTHING!***

He gives us rest

He directs our path

He protects us from enemies

He gives us victory

He gives us security

If Jesus is God, it shouldn't surprise us to find Him described as our Shepherd!

JESUS IS THE SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP 10:1-6

Two threads develop in chapter:

1st thread: "I am" statements They tell us Who Jesus is:

"I am the good Shepherd."

"I am the door."

Jesus is GOD!

2nd thread tells about His sheep.

How sheep respond to their Shepherd.

Jesus' sheep follow Him 4b

"...His sheep follow Him because they know His voice.

Jesus' sheep recognize His voice 4c-5

Contrast: They won't follow a stranger!

⁵they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

JESUS IS THE GATE FOR THE SHEEP 10:7b-10

Jesus is the way to eternal life 9a *I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.*

The sheep all get in the same way—through the door.

There's ONLY ONE DOOR by which sheep can get into the Shepherd's fold!

Jesus is THE WAY to enter the Shepherd's pen!

Jesus is the way to fellowship with God 9b *"He will come in & go out, & find pasture."*

We come to the Father through Him

We're provided green, satisfying pastures through Him.

Jesus is the way to abundant, satisfying, eternal life 10b

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOR THE SHEEP 10:11-18

Jesus lays down His life for His sheep 11-13 11

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Contrast: When danger comes, hired hands abandon sheep

12-13 *The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep & runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock & scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand & cares nothing for the sheep.*

Jesus knows His sheep and they know Him 14-18

Relationship with His sheep motivates Him to die for them

14-15 *"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep & my sheep know me—¹⁵ just as the Father knows me & I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

DEBATE ABOUT JESUS: 2 ALTERNATIVES 19-21

[for them only two!]

[C.S. Lewis: Liar, lunatic, Lord]

Either Jesus is CRAZY! 19-20 *At these words the Jews were again divided. ²⁰Many said, "He is demon-possessed & raving mad. Why listen to him?"*

Or, He's come with super-natural power—God sent Him

21 *Others said, "These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"*

CRITICAL QUESTION: [Main issue they/we have to decide:]

HOW WILL YOU RESPOND TO JESUS? 22-30

Jews reject the Savior 22-26

Their question: *Who are you?*

22-24 *The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."*

Their response 25-26 His answer focuses on response to Him!]

He has told them **25** *Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me,*

They haven't believed **26**

"you do not believe because you are not my sheep.

Jesus' sheep respond to the Savior 27-30

Contrast: how His sheep respond:

27 *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."*

His sheep listen to His voice 27a

His sheep follow Him 27b [This response seen repeatedly:]

3 ... *the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name...*

[He] leads them out.

4 ... *he goes .. ahead of them, His sheep follow him ... they know his voice. 5 The sheep run away from a stranger ... because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."* [but they DO know the Shepherd's voice!]

8 *The sheep did not listen to ... [thieves & robbers]. but they know the shepherd's voice!*

14 *"... my sheep know me"*

16 *I have other sheep ... They too will listen to my voice ...*

26 *but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.*

27 *My sheep listen to my voice; ... and they follow me.*

Jesus' sheep are secure because they stay close to the Shepherd!

Their antenna is fixed on Him—so they can hear what He says!

Sheep spend so much time with their Shepherd they'd know His voice anywhere!

His sheep have eternal life **28a** *"I give them eternal life and they shall never perish."*

His sheep never perish **28b**

His sheep can never be snatched away **28c-30** *"No*

one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, Who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand. I & the Father are one."

NO ONE! —figure of a clenched fist—an ALL-powerful one!

Game with kids—now grandkids! Hide something in your hand.

They could never pry it out!

—**they'd have to be stronger than I am to get it out!**

Taking hold of hands to walk across street; or swing them.

My enemies can't snatch me out of God's hand!

My friends or family can't snatch me out of God's hand!

Satan can't snatch me out of God's hand!

Hauna: Evil spirits can't snatch me out of God's hand!

I can't even snatch *myself* out of God's hand!

NO ONE can snatch us out of God's hand! NO ONE!

God has told us HE WON'T snatch us out of His hand!

Texas rancher who owned 2000 sheep told J Vernon McGee: Someone has to keep an eye on sheep all the time. If two go over the hill, they're lost; they can't find way back. If a wolf comes along and eats one, the other doesn't run away. He doesn't know where to go! A sheep is stupid; he has no way to defend himself. He can't outrun the enemy.

If a sheep is safe,

it isn't because it's clever.

It's because ***he has a good shepherd!***

When I tell you I have eternal life & I'll never perish, I'm not bragging about myself.

I'm bragging about my shepherd!

I have a wonderful Shepherd. He never loses a sheep!

NOT true that once you're a Christian you get away with anything!

God's children are secure!

We're secure because His children know His voice and follow Him!

Don't confuse cause with effect!

—result and pre-requisite!

We don't listen to His voice & follow Him

to become his sheep!

We listen to His voice & follow Him

because we are his sheep!

When you trust in Jesus—when you stop trusting yourself and trust HIM, you receive **God's FREE gift—eternal life!**

As our Shepherd, Jesus has promised to give us EVERYTHING we need!

He gives that kind of life to those who recognize Him as Shepherd!

The Shepherd doesn't care for *someone else's* sheep.

The Shepherd cares for HIS sheep

—who know His voice

—listen to Him

—follow Him

Kid's chorus:

The Lord is my Shepherd,

I'll trust in Him ALWAYS! (2x)

Always, Always!

I'll trust in Him ALWAYS! (2x)