

JOHN 10:1-18

The Church – the Assembly of
Jews and Gentiles with
Blessed Oneness in Christ



Jesus is the True Shepherd of His Sheep (John 10:1-18)

A true-to-life illustration of a sheepfold (10:1-6)

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.*

- Description of a typical sheepfold:
 - Stone enclosure with one opening or doorway
 - The door is guarded by an undershepherd or a paid gatekeeper admitting only authorized shepherds
 - On top of the walls of the enclosure, branches with thorns are attached to discourage intruders and thieves
 - A typical sheepfold is a night shelter for more than one flock
 - Each shepherd enters the fold and gathers his flock by giving his call or calling each sheep by name, and they respond and follow (disciples and the blind man Jesus healed – John 9:30)
- Jesus uses the example of the sheepfold to expose the corruption of Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and to explain to the Jewish people how the Lord's sheep respond to Jesus
- The illustration makes no sense to the Jews

Jesus describes Himself as the Door of the Sheepfold (10:7-10)

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.

- Jesus describes Himself as the door, the only point of access for His sheep
 - John 14:6
- The “thieves and robbers” are the Jewish leaders who exploit the sheep for their own ends
- These false leaders do not deceive the sheep that belong to Jesus (“the sheep do not listen to them” – Cf. John 9:30-33)
- Through the provision of truth and fulfillment in Jesus, the sheep have salvation and sanctifying sustenance (“he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture”)
 - The devil and his false teachers lead people down a path of lies, deception, and destruction – any distraction that takes the focus off God’s provision of Jesus Christ (“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy”)
 - Jesus Christ provides an abundant and purposeful life
 - – “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”
 - Remember, the sheep are followers of Jesus, who are given gospel life and salvation
 - 2 Peter 1:3–4
 - 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gives His life for sheep (John 10:11-15)

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

- Jesus does not tend the flock for what He can get but for what He can give
- Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world

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.

- A “hired hand” does not work for the sheep but for the wages
- The hired hand will flee rather than fight
- A wolf is vicious and dangerous, and to a hired hand, sheep are expendable
- A good shepherd cares for the sheep and he will fight the wolves to protect 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 knows His sheep, and His sheep know their Shepherd
- The Lord knows them before they know the Lord
 - Romans 8:29–30
- The knowledge Jesus is describing is reciprocal between the Good Shepherd and the sheep, and it is not superficial
- The depth of connection between the Shepherd and His sheep leads Him to die on the cross for them to provide and protect them

Jew and Gentile sheep become one flock in Jesus – The promise of a unified church by gospel grace (John 10:16-18)

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.

- “I have other sheep” – the Lord determined there are Gentiles that are to be part of His flock
 - Jesus encourages the Apostle Paul to continue gospel ministry with the knowledge that there are people in Corinth God has chosen to shave to bolster him
 - Acts 18:9–10
 - The sheep Jesus saves were chosen before He created anything
 - Ephesians 1:3–5
- “this fold” refers to sheep from among the Jews, so “not of this fold” indicates Gentiles
- “I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice” - How can this happen since Jesus will give His life, resurrect, and return to the heavenly Father?
- As The Father sent him on a mission to Israel, so He will continue His mission to the nations through His followers
 - Matthew 28:18–20

Jew and Gentile sheep become one flock in Jesus – The promise of a unified church by gospel grace (John 10:16-18)

“So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

- They do not continue as separate flocks (Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians)
- By the divine call of salvation, Jesus makes the two one, and the one flock abides under the care of one Shepherd
 - Ephesians 2:14–18
- The Church joins Jews together with Gentiles as the New Covenant people of God
- With Jews united with Gentiles in the Church by gospel grace, the Church is the New Covenant Israel of God
 - Romans 2:28–29
 - Galatians 6:15–16
 - Ephesians 2:11–16
- Paul defines the mystery – something once hidden that is now revealed
 - Ephesians 3:1–6
- The Church is the union of Jew and Gentile in one body of believers
 - 1 Peter 2:9–10
- The gospel mission of Paul exemplifies that churches exist because the gospel calls Jews and Gentiles into one Body – the Church universal and invisible, put on display in local and visible churches or assemblies
 - Romans 1:16–17
 - Acts

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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.”

- The mutual love of the Father and the Son, united in their love for the sheep, is displayed most clearly in the willing sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- The crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension are intricately united in the redemptive work of Christ
- Jesus willingly surrendered Himself as the sacrifice of atonement and wicked men willingly killed Him
- Acts 2:23
- Gospel grace is ours by the grace of our Lord, calling Jews and Gentiles out of darkness into His marvelous light
- By His grace and for His glory, we are united in one Body, the Church
- For the glory of the Lord and for the advancement of the gospel, the local churches are to be focused and faithful to the Lordship of Jesus over all things

Questions to Consider

- In what ways does the knowledge that Jesus is your Shepherd bring hope and comfort to your heart?
- How are you honoring the authority of Jesus by responding to His voice?
- If your life with Jesus is not an abundant life...
 - ...what are you worshiping in His place?
 - ...what are you focusing on instead of Him?
 - ...what are you surrendering to that must be directed back to Jesus and His truth?
- Why should the unity of the church be important to you?

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