

Text: John 10:1-11

Meaning: Jesus is the Good Shepherd and the door of the sheep

Big Idea: Jesus protects, leads, and feeds His flock

Objective: I want the hearers to follow Jesus and trust fully in Him

Theme: Abundant Life

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Background

CHAPTER 9 – Jesus has just healed a man born blind.

Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Messianic Jewish Scholar and founder of Ariel Ministries

Some time prior to the coming of Yeshua (Jesus), the ancient rabbis separated miracles into two categories. First were those miracles anyone would be able to perform if they were empowered by the Spirit of God to do so. The second category of miracles were called "messianic miracles," which were miracles only the Messiah would be able to perform. Yeshua did miracles in both categories: general miracles and also messianic miracles. So because of the rabbinic teaching that certain miracles would be reserved only for the Messiah to do, whenever He performed a messianic miracle it created a different type of reaction than when He performed other types of miracles.

(<http://www.messianicassociation.org/ezone48-of-three-messianic-miracles.htm>)

3 Messianic miracles of Jesus

- Healing of a Leper
- Casting out of a dumb or mute demon
- Healing of the man born blind

The reason this healing of the man born blind was considered a messianic miracle is because Jesus created something from nothing.

The term is **EX NIHILO**, in other words he created this man's sight from scratch.

In the beginning God took the dust of the ground and formed the man and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and he became a living being. This is most likely why Jesus made mud from the ground to put on this man's eyes, because it was a picture of Him being the Creator!

Robby Gallaty, THE FORGOTTEN JESUS

"(Because this was during the Feast of Booths) The city was crawling with people. Add to this the fact that the journey was roughly a half a mile through the main thoroughfare. A blind man would be bumping into people along the way while simultaneously traversing a steep hill descending to the pool. The man would have fallen numerous times, all while walking with his eyes caked in mud....But Jesus purposely directed the blind man to the pool, even in the midst of the festival. He served as a walking billboard of his grace."

(The Forgotten Jesus, pg. 158)

So, the very moment this man stood up from the pool and began to shout, "I CAN SEE! I CAN SEE!" He was shouting "THE MESSIAH IS HERE, THE MESSIAH IS HERE!"

From this point on the Jewish religious leaders go into full on attack mode seeking to prove that Christ was not who He claimed to be.

Church – there is only one Messiah, one Lord and Savior, only One who came to save us from our sins, and only one who is worthy of our praise and adoration – and **that is the ANOINTED ONE, THE CHRIST, THE LORD JESUS!**

So, with that backdrop in mind Jesus engages some Pharisees, Jewish religious leaders who were more interested in their traditions, appearance, power, and wealth than they were in obeying God.

And Jesus gives them a FIGURE OF SPEECH, a type and symbol to describe who He is and what He came to do.

TWO I AM STATEMENTS:

I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Whenever the Hebrew people heard the title "Shepherd" the great patriarchs of their faith would come to mind. The term was synonymous with the religious and political leadership of the nation.

Jacob – named changed to Israel – was a Shepherd

Moses – deliverer of Israel, Shepherd

David – the prototype of Hebrew royalty, and the one whose throne will be occupied forever by the Messiah – was a Shepherd

Ezekiel 34:15-16

(The Lord says) 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

Psalms 23 – David declares, "THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD!"

Jesus is making another direct statement to the fact that He was and is the Messiah. He uses imagery that they were very familiar with and saw often in Jerusalem and around the countryside of Israel.

These **SHEEPFOLDS** he talks about here were scattered all throughout the countryside. In the city there were large sheepfolds where multiple shepherds would bring their flocks to corral them as they engaged in business of some kind in the city. Their would be a gatekeeper their who would watch the flocks together and would only allow shepherds who owned sheep within the enclosure to come and receive their sheep. Shepherds would walk into the pen and call their sheep out and only the sheep who knew the voice of

their shepherd would follow him out. No other sheep would follow, only the shepherd's sheep who recognized his voice.

Jesus uses that imagery here when he says that He is the Good Shepherd and his sheep know his voice and they follow Him and will not ultimately follow a stranger's voice.

Outside the city there were scattered all throughout the countryside these smaller sheepfolds which were only large enough for an individual shepherds flock. These enclosures were surrounded by small stone walls with a narrow opening at one end. Historians tell us that shepherds would position themselves in this doorway, this narrow entrance, while the flock was resting there. Shepherds would even sleep all night long at these entrances just to ensure no predator got in and no sheep got out.

Hence the picture here when Christ Jesus says, "I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP".

SHOW PIC OF SHEEPFOLD WITH SHEPHERD IN THE DOORWAY

THERE IS AN IMPENETRABLE STONE WALL OF GRACE THAT SURROUNDS YOUR LIFE TODAY! NOTHING GETS IN AND THE LORD WON'T LET YOU OUT!

BELOVED – JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD! HE MAKES US LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES! HE LEADS US BESIDE STILL WATERS! HE RESTORES OUR SOUL! HE SEEKS THE LOST AND BRING BACK THE ONES WHO STRAY! HE CARRIES US WHEN WE ARE HURTING AND HE STRENGTHENS US WHEN WE ARE WEAK! HE IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD!

Here we see how Jesus SHEPHERDS HIS PEOPLE.

1. JESUS PROTECTS HIS FLOCK

Jesus is the shepherd in the door and He protects us. He protects us from:

Religion

Jesus is talking to the religious leaders here. What law can't do love does! What legalism can't do, altruism does! What condemnation can't do, compassion does! What religion can't do a relationship with Christ does! Today if religion has left you feeling inadequate and unfit and cast aside, Christ invites you into his loving flock. He came to seek and to save the one sheep that was broken and hurting and lost!

Rebellion

Jesus says here the ones before him were thieves and robbers. The word robber in the original language speaks of an insurrectionist. The zealot leaders who had come before Jesus declared salvation by force, Jesus taught salvation by grace – and that only through His sacrifice for us on the cross.

Beloved, our hope is not rebellion against the world as much as it is submission to Jesus! Vengeance is mine saith the Lord! The Messiah's campaign is a campaign of grace, and just like our good shepherd we are called to lay down our lives, our agendas, our egos, our preferences, for His sake!

Ruin

With the Shepherd at the door NOTHING GOT IN AND NO ONE GOT OUT! Jesus goes on to say later in this chapter, "no one will snatch my sheep out of my hand." Beloved, with Jesus at the door the DEVIL HAS NO PLACE and our salvation IS KEPT BY HIS GRACE!

2. JESUS LEADS HIS FLOCK

Jesus here says that he goes before us and his sheep follow Him. How does He lead us?

By His Voice

Just as sheep only know the voice of the shepherd and will only follow him, so too God's Children know the voice of the shepherd and follow Him. Jesus said His sheep know Him and they know His voice. In Romans 8 Paul writes and says those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.

It is God's voice that gives us peace in the storm, direction in the desert, and wisdom in the wilderness.

Some of you are like wandering sheep, falling in one ditch after another, simply because you are not listening to the voice of the Shepherd!

Through His Victory

Here when Jesus says the shepherd has "brought out all his own" the idea is of an expulsion. It carries the idea of running out an invading enemy. It is Christ's victory over the grave that ensures our victory! The devil may lurk near the sheep but He can't hurt the sheep! We have eternal salvation in Christ.

The thief may try to steal our song, kill our joy, and destroy our lives, but Jesus: TAKES BACK WHAT THE ENEMY HAS STOLEN, ERADICATES SIN AND DEATH, AND BUILDS OUR LIVES AND OUR FAITH WHEN WE FOLLOW HIM!

According to His Vision

It's the Shepherd who sees further ahead, who knows the paths that lead to green pastures, and who knows where the watering holes are. Church, Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Trust His vision and plan for your life. We see only the field we're in, but Jesus sees the fields we are going to and need to go to. The longer we kick against His leading the longer we nibble in worn fields. There are greener pastures spiritually waiting for us. Trust Jesus's vision and direction.

This is the LIFE!

Beach

Mountains

Out on the Lake/Camping

Playing golf

Visiting some amusement park

Owning a nice home, or a vacation home

Having your own island

Abundantly – outstanding, exceptional, unusual, remarkable,
noteworthy