

Following Jesus
35, The Good Shepherd
John 10:1-30

I. Introduction

- a. Matthew 9:36 “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, **as sheep** having no shepherd.”
- b. Isaiah 53:6 “All **we like sheep** have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
- c. 1 Peter 2:25 “For ye **were as sheep** going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.”

II. Message

a. **1 – Jesus is the true Shepherd of His followers**

- i. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But **he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd** of the sheep.”
- ii. A lot of false prophets and false Messiahs have tried to make themselves out to be God’s gift to humanity through their own ambitions
 1. Some religious, some political
 2. In the OT, it was the spiritual leaders that were trying to “climb up some other way”
 3. **Jeremiah 23:1-2**
 4. The ones that were supposed to be spiritual leaders were spiritually destructive!
 5. The is certainly true of the antichrist
 6. **2 Thessalonians 2:4**
 - a. Jesus is the only true shepherd of the sheep
 - b. **1 John 5:20**

b. **2 – Jesus uses His voice to lead His followers**

- i. “3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. 4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and **the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.**”
- ii. He knows His sheep individually (by name) – v.3 (that is comforting!)
- iii. His sheep know His voice and trust His words – v.4

c. **3 – Jesus is also the Door through which His followers enter**

- i. In an interesting twist in the metaphor, Jesus says He is also the door!

1. There has never been another way and there will never be another way
2. John 14:6
3. You have to enter the family, the flock through Jesus by faith

d. **4 – Jesus gives His life for His followers to have life**

- i. No one else would die for sheep
- ii. “10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep....15 I lay down my life for the sheep.”
 1. Jesus, the Shepherd, came to give abundant life
 2. The sheepfold isn't a prison
 3. Remember Psalm 23
 1. John 1:4 “In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”
 - a. Life in Jesus is meant to be abundant
 - b. And He is the only way to this abundant life!

e. **5 – Jesus unifies His followers in one fold**

- i. “16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”
 1. Jesus desires for us to reach everyone, and to train them in discipleship so that together we all make up the body of Christ
 2. And in Christ we are unified!
 3. Ephesians 4:4-6

f. **5 – Jesus brings power over death to His followers**

- i. “17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”
- ii. Jesus brings His resurrection power to the sheepfold!
 1. Jesus is not the Good Shepherd to those that claim to follow
 2. Or want to follow
 3. Or make others *think* they follow
 4. He is the good shepherd to those that, as James said, are not just hearers of the Word, but *doers*
 5. They are actively following the Shepherd

III. Conclusions and applications

a. Application #1 – Enter

- i. If you are not yet in the fold, the family of God, you must enter through

Jesus alone!

- ii. He is willing to leave the 99 to find just 1 (YOU!)
- iii. But you must enter by Jesus alone!
- iv. Understand, agree, trust

b. Application #2 – Obey!

- i. Shama – “Hear O Israel”
- ii. Deeply hear
- iii. Don’t just hear, do

c. Application #3 – Rest

- i. You have nothing to worry about.
- ii. Every contingency in life and eternity has been accounted for
- iii. **Matthew 11:28-30**

IV. Prayer - **Hebrews 13:20:21** “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”