

- I. Reminder that John 10 is the continuation of the story in John 9
 - A. Last Sunday we looked at the parable Jesus as recorded in John 10:1-6. And just to remind you, the parable is a continuation of the story John is telling about Jesus healing the man born blind.
 - 1. Today, we are going to look vs 7-16, which is Jesus' explanation and expansion of His parable.
 - 2. And though I said this last week, I want to remind you that in this section, Jesus gives us three pictures of Himself. First, He is the door of the sheepfold – and as the door, He is both the only legitimate way in to the sheep fold and the true source of security for the sheep in the fold. Second, Jesus is the good shepherd. And third, Jesus is the only one who is both willing and worthy to lay down His life for the sheep.
 - B. John 10:7-16 . . . So Jesus said to them again, "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 hear them. [9] I am the door; if anyone enters through 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. [11] I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. [12] He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of 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 is not concerned about the sheep. [14] I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, [15] even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. [16] I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.
 - C. Pray
- II. Jesus explains and expands His parable, and in doing so tells us that He is the door, the good shepherd, and the sacrifice for the sheep.
 - A. John 10:7 . . . Jesus begins by saying, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep(fold)."

1. Within the context of the parable, explanation, and expansion of the parable, Jesus seems to give us two sides to the picture of His being the door of the sheep fold.
 - a. First, Jesus is the only legitimate way into the fold so that everyone who comes in a different way is rejecting Him and all that He represents, which in turn means they have bad intentions. There are several truths inferred here that I want to reinforce.
 - (1) First, to reject Jesus is to reject God (*the One who sent Him*), and Jesus' teachings, and Jesus' example of how to live the Christ-like life, and Jesus' salvation.
 - (2) Second, Jesus calls all who come in a different way thieves and robbers – which indicates He is talking about religious leaders who want to steal as many sheep as they can and take as much of whatever else there is to take.
 - (3) Third, if you are genuinely born again – then the new life within you enables you to identify who is and who isn't a legitimate shepherd, that is, who is and who isn't a legitimate pastor, teacher, elder, or leader in the church.
 - (4) Jesus confirms that those who are true Christians have this ability by using an example from nature where even children know the difference between a grape vine and a thorn bush. We read this in Matthew 7:15-18 . . . "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. [16] You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? [17] So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. [18] A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.
 - b. The second meaning Jesus gives to His being the door to the sheep fold is that of His being the security or guarantee of safety for the sheep within the fold. Of course, His sheep are equally safe when they are outside the sheep fold because He is their Good Shepherd!
 - c. To encourage your trust in Jesus as the Door and Good Shepherd, consider these examples of the security He provides. Jesus is our savior, our advocate with the Father, the One who makes peace for us with God, and our High Priest who understands our weaknesses and helps us in time of temptation.

- (1) Jesus is our rock, our fortress, our refuge, our shield, and our stronghold at all times, but we especially experience it in times of trouble, distress, suffering, sickness, and sorrow.
 - (2) Jesus protects us from being tempted beyond what we can bear, and He is able to keep us from sinning if we will fully depend on Him. He is our strength and wisdom, our always present help in times of trouble, and our comfort and hope regardless of the circumstances.
 - (3) Due to time I will stop here, but you can ponder this truth further and in so doing strengthen your faith in Jesus.
2. In summary, as the door of the sheep fold, Jesus is the only legitimate way into the sheep fold. All who have come through Jesus are able to identify who is a legitimate, God-approved leader within the church and who isn't. And as the door, Jesus is also our security, our safe place from all that would or could harm us.
- B. John 10:8a . . . All who came before Me were thieves and robbers,
1. In Israel, before the time of Christ and during His lifetime, there were false prophets, false messiahs, and self-serving religious leaders, such as the Scribes and Pharisees. In other words, there has been and continues to be those who take or accept the role of leader for bad motives and self-serving reasons rather than in humble, self-sacrificial service to God and for the benefit of the sheep.
 2. The reality is, though Jesus is the door of the sheep fold, it does not mean that unbelievers masquerading as Christians and ungodly leaders seeking their own interests will be kept out of the sheep fold. There will be bad leaders in sheep's clothing and unbelievers mixed in among the true Christians. We know this to be true from Matthew 7:15 – which I just read – as well as other scriptures. For example:
 - a. Jesus told this parable in Matthew 13:24-28a . . . "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. [25] But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. [26] But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. [27] The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' [28] And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!'"
 - b. And Jesus said in Matthew 24:24-25 . . . "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. [25] "Behold, I have told you in advance.

- c. In writing to the church in Corinth, Paul said, “I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; [10] I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. [11] But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. [12] For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? [13] But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves” (1 Corinthians 5:9-13).
3. The point here is that the religious institution which we call “the church” will be made up of sheep and goats, wheat and tares, born again Christians and those thinking they are born again Christians, godly leaders and those masquerading as godly leaders, and leaders who are serving God and seeking the good of the people and leaders who are serving themselves.
4. Though this is not a welcomed reality, let us not fear what is, for true believers are safe in Jesus Christ and able to tell the difference between those who are and who aren’t God’s people and God’s leaders. Jesus confirms the safety of His sheep in His next statement –
- C. John 10:8b . . . But the sheep did not hear them –
 1. With these words, Jesus confirms the fact that those who are true sheep will not listen to the self-appointed, ungodly shepherds no matter how godly they sound, or how much they quote scripture, or how popular they are within the Christian community, or how well-educated they are, or how many best selling books they have, or how well they sing and lead worship.
 2. The reality is, true sheep will discern who to follow and who not to follow based on the godliness of the messenger, the truth of the message, and the resulting fruit. And I think that true sheep will be zealous and diligent in working for and praying for the spiritual health of their church and the church universal.
- D. John 10:9 . . . I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.
 1. In these words Jesus reminds us that He is our salvation, our provision, and our protection – all of which represents the security we have in Him – as I have already stated.
 2. And as a reminder, let us not think of our salvation as only or mostly having to do with going to heaven after we die.

- a. Our salvation is a comprehensive salvation that saves us from the penalty of sin, the power of sin to rule over us, the practice of any particular sin, and the power of temptation to defeat us.
 - b. Our salvation saves us from our old nature and enables us to take on a new nature so that we actually and in the most practical ways become new creations in Christ Jesus.
 - c. And our salvation saves us from the world and from loving the things of the world, while bringing us into a reconciled relationship with God, and to loving God, and to loving the things of God – just to name a few of the things we are saved from and to.
- E. John 10:10 . . . The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.
1. This statement ought to grip our mind and heart so firmly that we tremble in fear and rejoice in confident hope of what can be.
 2. May we always fear the devil, the self-serving leader, sin, selfishness, and pride – for whatever tantalizing, pleasurable, enriching, empowering, fulfilling, protecting, and exalting things they promise, every one of them is dangled in front of us for the sole purpose of stealing us from God, killing our conscience, our rational thinking, along with any desire we may have for living a godly life, and destroying us – both in this life and in eternity.
 3. It is Jesus, and only Jesus who came to give us life, and the life He gives is abundant!
 - a. So what is an abundant life? It is a life that is fully sufficient because it has a bountiful supply of whatever we need.
 - b. And lest we go beyond reason, this does not mean having a bountiful supply of whatever you want, but rather a bountiful supply of what you need.
 4. So why is the truth in these words of Jesus so easily forgotten in certain areas of our lives and in certain moments of time?
 - a. For me, the answer is simple. When I am believing one of the devil's lies and using one of his methods in an effort to make my life better in some way, I am, in that action, hardening my heart and blinding my eyes to the truth I know.
 - b. The reality is, I know that the truth, that is, the way of God, actually works, and I know the lie doesn't. I know that living a godly life, no matter how hard it is, results in experiencing an abundant life. And I know that sin and the devil's lies may provide some form of immediate pleasure or relief or sense of well-being, but they always results in some form of loss, death, and

destruction. The truth is, when I choose to go the devil's way and the way of my flesh, it is not that I have forgotten the truth but rather I have chosen to ignore the truth.

- c. Now to be fair, it is true that you will have to do what is right long enough to kill off your longing for that particular lie of the devil which you think is so good. And you will have to do what is right long enough to put an end to your old ways of thinking and feeling that push you to choose the devil's lie over the way of God. And you will have to do what is right long enough to become convinced that the lie only seeks your harm while God's truth and God's ways bring you to an abundant life.
 - d. And once you get this far, you will be grateful for the comprehensive salvation given to you from God through Jesus Christ.
- F. John 10:11-13 . . . I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. [12] He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of 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 is not concerned about the sheep.
1. In these verses, Jesus explains that He, alone, is the good shepherd. Jesus is the good shepherd because only Jesus is willing and worthy to lay His life down for the safety and well-being of the sheep. And Jesus is the good shepherd because only Jesus is invested in the sheep, while the hired hand is invested in himself.
 2. Here again we see the reality of competing forces within the religious world. On the one hand you have Jesus – who is both the owner of the sheep and a good shepherd. On the other hand you have those who want to take the role of shepherd because of the money or status or power or praise gained from doing the job.
- G. John 10:14-15 . . . I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, [15] even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.
1. The only truth I want to point out here is that Jesus – along with every good pastor, elder, leader, and teacher in the church, personally knows the sheep under His care and His sheep know Him.
 2. In my opinion, this level of intimacy is essential if the shepherd is to know what each sheep needs and care for each sheep accordingly. It is also important for the sheep to know the shepherd in this same kind of way, for only then will the sheep know and recognize the voice

- of the shepherd and respond accordingly. The intimacy between a shepherd and the sheep is important to the well-being of the sheep.
- H. John 10:16 . . . I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.
1. This statement has been used to speculate and even promote some crazy teachings. In truth, there is no other place in scripture that adds clarity to these words, so we are left with not knowing for certain what Jesus was implying.
 2. My solution is to see it in light of the audience Jesus was taking to – who were Jews, and the rest of the world – who the Jews viewed as Gentiles. Therefore, for me, the other sheep represent us, non-Jews who have come to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

III. Conclusion

- A. We will stop here and finish the section (vs 17-18) the next time we meet.
- B. I want to conclude by providing to summaries as we prepare to share in Communion.
 1. First, those who have come to God through the door (*Jesus Christ*) are enabled by God to discern who is and who isn't a God-approved leader within the church. This is important because there will be thieves and robbers taking leadership positions within the church, and there will be those who want to appear as if they are Christians, but are not. Your security against such folks is Jesus Christ, who is within. Let us celebrate this great gift as we eat and drink together.
 2. Second, the thief comes ONLY to steal and kill and destroy; Jesus came that we may have life, and have it abundantly. Let us celebrate this incredible life given to us by God through Jesus Christ as we eat and drink together.