

Title" The Good Shepherd

Text: John 10:11-21

Will you take your Bibles and open them to John chapter 10. John chapter 10 beginning at Vs 11. We are still on the subject that we began last Sunday morning: THE GOOD SHEPHERD. John chapter 10 verse 11.

I think it would be good to begin by refreshing our memories with the most beautiful Psalm ever written about a shepherd. And that is the 23 Psalm. Let us say it all together...Ready! Begin!....

(Repeat Psalms 23)

John chapter 10 verse 11.....(READ JOHN 10:11-21)

Let us Pray

It is because of the last phrase of Vs 21 that I believe that chapter 10 is connected with what happened in chapter 9. When the man that was born blind was healed, and he went through all of that questioning by the Sanhedrian, according to Vs 34 of chapter 9 he was cast out-off the Synogue. Therefore, he was outside-off the fold of Judiasm.

The "fold" in John chapter 10 is not heaven. It is not the church. The 'fold' is Judaism.

The porter that opens the door to the shephred was John the Baptist. Those who are climbing up some other way are the scribes and the Pharisees. And the one who enters in and is the shephred and calls out-off the fold his own sheep and takes them out to pasture is Jesus. HE IS THE GOOD SHEPHRED. As most shephred's did in ancient times they put all their sheep in one fold in one little town. And so in the morrowing they would come and by their voice the sheep that belonged to that particular shephred would come out and follow him.

The reason the sheep followed the shephred is because they know his voice. And because the sheep already belong to the shephred. And that is why they respond to him. This is a fantastic illustration of *what it means to follow. J.C.*

And Vs 9 is a wonderful verse. Notice it please. "Jesus said, I am the door; if anyone enters through me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pautre."

The thief who is the false shephred, the Antichrist, himself, is coming to steal and to kill and to destroy.

But notice, Vs 10, the true shephred comes that you might have life and might have it abundantly.

(2C) Now, beginning with Vs 11, after seeing and recognizing the Shephred, ~~himself~~, in the first 10 versos, we are going to look today at the ~~responsibility~~ responsibility of that Shephred. And I want you to see this ^{responsibility} in several ways.

(1D) First of all, in his care of the ~~sheep~~ sheep in Vs 11-15.

(1E) In the first place, I would like you to notice the main characteristic of the Good shephred. The main characteristic of the Good Shephred. And this is found in Vs 11. "I am the good shephred; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

Now, the way to tell the ^{good} ~~right~~ shephred is ^{his} his personal sacrific and love for his sheep. There are shepherds who do not feel that way. But the good shephred ^{Jews} is the one who is willing to give his life for the sheep.

~~By the way, the word "right" is not the same word?~~

~~translated?~~

In I John 3:16 It says, "here is the way we know the love of God. And that is by someone who will lay down His life for us.

The way we can understand the good shepherd who really loves his sheep is that he lays down or gives up his life for the ones that belong to him.

It reminds me much of the O.T. here. And I don't think the Jews were mistaken about what he was claiming. I think, once again, because of the division that we find throughout John, the Jews understood the point that Jesus was making. And they didn't like it.

Let me show you what I mean. Turn to Genesis chapter 49. Genesis chapter 49. In this chapter we have the prophecy of the 12 sons of Jacob. A prophecy that has truly come to an amazing fulfillment. Genesis 49 and verse 24 in speaking of Joseph who is such a marivoulus type of Jeus Christ. So many things about the life of Joseph: He was sold as a slave. So was Jesus Christ. Joseph for 20 pieces of silver. christ for 30. So many wonderful types in the life of Joseph.

But we read in Vs 24 concerning the prophecy of Joseph....(Read Vs 24)

Now, the Jews looked upon the Messiah as being the great shepherd. Jesus said "I am the good shepherd." And the way you know the good shepherd is by the fact that he ^{lays} ~~layed~~ down his life for the sheep.

We have already quoted Psalms 23. Again from the Jewish point of view a Messianic Psalm. Where he says that the shephard will provide for the needs of the sheep. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, AND I SHALL NOT WANT.

The shepherd concept is very important to the Jews. There is another one in Ezekiel. And I would like you to turn to the book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel chapter 34. Ezekiel is just before the book of Daniel.....Ezekiel chapter 34 verse 23. There is a message here in the context of Ezekiel 34 about the unfaithful shepherd's, the leaders of Israel. They are unfaithful. And there is a message to them. This message, also, deals with the future. In the setting up of God's kingdom on earth. Ezekiel 34: 23-24(read)

Now, he is not talking about David who lived in the past because Ezekiel was writtend during the time of The Babylonian captivity. Almost 500 years after David lived.

The David that he is referring to is the future David. The son of David. The Messiah who will set on the throne. And he says that he will be one shepherd over them. He will ~~feed~~ feed them. And he will be their shepherd. I think that is tramendous in light of John 10...

Jesus said in John 10:16 that there will be one fold or flock with one Shepherd. And they couldn't hepl but apply that to the prophecy of Ezekiel. The great shepherd, the Messiah of Israel. And Jesus was applying that prophecy to himself. I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

So, The main characteristic, again, is that shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

That to me is fantàstic in ~~light~~ light of Israel's respons to the Messiah. For they did not see him as one who would die and suffer in behalf of his people. Yet, the Bible says that the shepherd must also be the lamb.... The shephred is known for the fact that he lays down his life for the sheep.

And that great story is found in Isaiah 53 where the Bible teaches that the Shepherd, the Messiah, himself, will be lead away like a lamb to be slaughtered. And all the sins of the entire world will be ~~laid~~ laid on him, And he will die for us. He will be wounded for our transgressions. He will be ~~buried~~ buried for our sins. The chastening for our well-being fell upon him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on him."

That is the great shepherd. And the way to know him is that he lays down his life for the ~~sheep~~ sheep. *Do You Know The Shepherd? Have you received Him As Your Lord? Christian are you Following Him? About The Care of The Sheep*

(2E) The second thing that I want you to notice ~~is~~ is the contrast with the hireling.

Make no mistake about it there will be those who claim to be the true shepherd. There has been in the past. There will be in the future. But he contrast them with the hireling. Someone who is not the shepherd, but is employed by the shepherd.

We read several things here in Vs 12-13 that are important about a hireling and how he is contrasted with the shepherd. 3 things...

(1F) One, the reason he acts this way is because he doesn't own the sheep. That is the point of why we have the word "hireling." He was hired. In other words, he was working for money, not love....

You see, Jesus is not giving you salvation, he didn't die for you because of money. Jesus died for you because he loved you....

And the good shepherd is in contrast to a heriling because he is just hired. He is employed. He is working for meny and money alone. Not because the sheep belong to him. He dosen't own the shepp at all.

(2F) Number two, the results that you can expect from a hireling ~~is~~ are: that he will leave the sheep when the wolf comes. You can count on it. He will not stick around when the going gets rough...When there is danger, he will leave.

But Jesus said, I will never leave you nor forsake you...~~Leu~~ I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

Christ will never leave us. And In contrast to a hireling who will take off at a moments notice of danger. The wolf comes and he takes off.

In Acts chapter 20 verse 29 and 30 there is an interesting statement made about Pastors of local churches. They are to warn the flock about savage wolves who will come in and not spar the flock. And also about those who will be right within the flock; but who are wolves by nature. And who will ~~deserve~~ ^{deserve} the flock and led away many disciples after them.

One of the ministries of the shepherd is not only to provide food; but also to protect the sheep from danger. Now, he did that in several ways. Do you remember in the ~~book~~ of Corinthians Paul spoke about the church of Corinth being a Carnal church and having a lot of difficulties. And he said, "I would really like to talk to you in love, but I feel like I should bring a rod." Do you reemember that?

Now, I am not talking this morrowing about wiping the sheep. Because I believe my responsibility is to feed them. ~~the rod was used for protection not for wiping.~~ ^{But} the rod was used for protection not for wiping. To protect the sheep from the wolves.

And there is a very neet application concerning the Word of God. The Word of God is not only food to the soul. It is also a rod. And the Word of Almighty God in the person of Christ in the future will come forth like a rod of iron. And will destroy the enemies of the gospel. It is an interesting play on the shepherd who both feeds the sheep and also uses the rod to protect the sheep from danger. The Word of God does both ^{things in our lives}

But the shepherd is the one who cares for the sheep and doesn't leave them when danger comes. But the hierling does. Bedause he is only employed. It is only there for the money. That is all that he is interested in.

(3F) The ~~third~~ third things is the response he feels in his heart.

Vs 13 says that the "hireling flees because he is not concerned for the sheep. He doesn't care for them at all.

You know, a person does what he does because he is what he is. ...This would be by way of application important to all of us to be careful about working only because we are paid...

It is a dangerous thing to work only to receive money. If that is your motivation, you are going to found yourself in all kinds of temptat~~ions~~. ^{Becareful} ~~Be careful~~ about that!. The man doesn't care about the ~~sheep~~ because he is being paid and he is only looking to the money.

But, the good shepherd, ^{Jesu} is not like that. The good shepherd cares for the sheep.

One of the most beautiful, ~~beautiful~~ painting that I have ever seen is that painting of ~~the~~ Jesus holding a ^{lamb} sheep. I am sure you have seen that painting. It is simplely beautiful. But that is the way Jesus is. He cares ~~for~~ the sheep. Because he owns you.. *did you know that?*

I Corinthians 6: verse 19-20 says "do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God."

You belong to God. He brought you. He paid for you. You belong to him. You are his sheep. He already owns you. And that is why he cares for you. He paid for you with the price of his own blood. *are you glorifying Him in your life? about the price of the sheep*

softly

(3E) The third thing that I want you to notice in Vs 14 is the companionship between the shepherd and the sheep. And this illustrates again ^{his} wonderful care. Jesus said, "I ^{am} the good shepherd; and I know my own, and my own know me."

And the way you know the shepherd is by experience. We can learn the facts ^{about Jesus} from the Word of God. But there is more ^{to it} than that. The shepherd becomes real to the sheep when they know his voice and they follow him. There is companionship between the shepherd and the sheep. ~~beautiful~~



Do you know about that?.....Are you experience that compaionship for yourself?....

(4E) And then fourth, in Vs 15, Christ makes a play on that and points out the communion between the Father and himself. Intimate communion. He says, Vs 15, "even as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep."

Now Why did he say that?....Because his point is as he knows the sheep the sheep knows him. He said that is just like it is with the Father and I. We know each other.

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It is amazing to me that in some way I could know Jesus in some sense as the Father and Son know each other. Isn't that tremendous. This closeness between Father and Son is the closeness that I can have with Jesus ^{if I really want it.}

And yet it is sad. Because so many people only experience ~~it~~ a head knowledge with Jesus. Or, so many people hear the messages and ~~some~~ ^{soon} they are forgotten. So few, take the time to really experience Jesus in their life during the week. ^{To have a} A desire to know him better.

Paul said in Philipppians 3:10 that ^{this} ~~the~~ one desire in life was to know Christ. And this word "know" is the word for "experience." Paul was saying that I might daily experience a knowledge ~~of~~ ^{of} christ and the power of his resurrection. A daily experience with Jesus..

Oh, my friends, do you know the shepherd? If not, I hope you will apply this to your life. I hope you will get to know Jesus right now.

(21) Secondly, I want you to see how the shepherd is responsible in his formation of one fold. That is verse 16. There is going to be one fold in the future. ^{the other} Not the fold of Judiasm. But another fold. And there will be other sheep who are not of that fold of Judiasm.

In Vs 16 the first fold is "Judaism". The second fold ^{is a} ~~is~~ a new fold. It combinds both those who come out-off Judaism and those who are the "other sheep." And they are formed into one fold ^{or} ~~or~~ Flock

And this is a tremendous ^{prophecy} ~~teaching~~. It is refering to the church. Vs 16 says "And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear my voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd." ^(K5 Feb)

Three things here....

(1E) One, the ^{meaning} ~~mean~~ of "the other shepp," This is referring to Gentitles, who will come to know Christ as Saviour and Lord. They are the "other sheep" who ~~are~~ are not part of the fold of Judaism.

(21)

(2E) Second, the method by which these other sheep will be included.

In Vs 16 we learn the method. It is by means of the power of God. "I must bring them also." Again that reminds us of a very important truth.

A lot of us believe that we bring ourself to christ. But the Bible says that Christ is bringing us to himself. Just as a shepherd does with the sheep. "I MUST BRING THEM ALSO."

and
This Reminds me, ~~also~~, of Ephesians 2:12f which says that Christ broke down the barrier between Jew and Gentile and out-off two he has made one new man. One fold....One new ^{Flock} ~~man~~...One body of Christ ~~wh~~ whether Jew or Gentile, all are one. And the Bible teaches that the cross was necessary to make us one fold. Jesus had to die in order to make it possible.....WHY?...Because the thing separating Jew and Gentile ~~was~~ was the law. And the result of offending in one point of the law was that you were guilty of the entire law. If you sinned once or a thousand, you must pay the penalty which was death.

So, The reason the cross is essential to forming the church is that when Jesus died on the cross he satisfied completely the righteous demands of the law which the Jews were living under. The demand is death. And Christ died that death. He paid ^{The Penalty} ~~for~~ it. He substituted his life for every man, woman and ~~child~~ child who has ever lived. It is ^{paid} ~~done~~ for. It is done.

And so the middle wall, which was the righteous demands of the law, which to the Gentiles was an impossible barrier, has been destroyed. It was rendered inoperative. Ineffective. It cannot function anymore. We are not under law...We are under grace.

Christ's satisfied the demands of the law. The law ^{True:} was spiritual, holy, and good. And ^{it} still is. But the law demands death for one violation. Christ paid for that. It is ^{Done} ~~done~~ and complete. And he destroyed the barrier of the law.

And so People are not saved by keeping the law or by doing good. People are saved by means of Christ who died on the cross. For by Grace we have been saved...not by works or by the law...

Christ brings us to himself by means of the cross and has formed one fold...*or one flock* whether Jew or Gentile, whether male or female

(3E) The motive in all of this is that there be one flock. Now, notice the change in Vs 16. We change from the word "fold" to the ~~word~~ word "flock".....You see, Judiasm was a fold. But not the church. The church is not a fold in which are contained both believers and unbelievers.

So, many people believe that. They believe that it is a building or an organization. People talk about a local church including both possessing believers and professing ones. While that may be true, I want to tell you something:.....The professing ones who have never come to know christ, you may set here and have your name on somebodys roll, but you are not in the true church. You are not in the church of Jesus Christ. You are not a part of the one flock. *you may be part of a local congregaion, but you are not part of Christ chuch.*

It is not a fold that contains both believers and non-believers....Oh, No...it is one "flock". Individaul sheep who have come to know Christ as saviour. And that is an important change in terms in Vs 16. Christ said that there is one flock and one shepherd...Just Jesus, that is all...

(3D) Then third, notice the responsibility of the shepherd in terms of the comandment of the Father in Vs 17 and 18. He says, "For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it again." That is refering to resurrection.

Vs 18."No one has taken it away from me, but I lay it down of my own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authoriyt to take it up again. This comandment I received from my Father."

Three things here.

(1E) That comandment is based, first of all, on his love. It is based on his love pure and simple. There is no personal gain other than the satisfacti of the love of God. God loved you and that is why he responded. By the way, love is the motive in obedience behind any command. That is based on love.

(2E) Second, it is based on his willingness. He says I lay it down on my own initiative. I do this myself. It is all voluntary. Christ gave his life on the cross not because he was forced to....no...He agreed and wanted to lay his life down before the fundation of the world.

It was all part of his plan of redemption. Christ loved us so much that he wanted to die in our place..

(3E) And it is also based upon his power, or authority. He says "I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again."

Christ is saying here that He crucified himself. In all the discussions about who crucified Christ, this is a very interesting verse. Jesus is saying, "Hay, I did it myself."

And if you think about it, you will remeber that all the way through his life, Jesus remained people that he was going to lay down his life. He died of his own free will. He came into the world to die. And he willingly did it. He had absolute power and cntrol. He also has power and control over his resurectmon. He said "I can take it up again."

WHO RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD?.....

The Bible says in Ephesians 1 that God, the Father, raised Jesus from the dead.

The Bible says in Romans 8:11 that H.S. raised Jesus from the dead.

Jesus said in John 10:18 that I am going to do it myself.

You see, the tri-unity of God is often functioning in the same events. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit raising the body of Jesus from the dead.

(3C) Well, as you might have figured out there was division. The Jews were divided. ^{vs 19} And noticed what happened.

(1D) First, there was an attempt to discribe Jesus. They said, Vs 20, "He has a demon, and he is insane; why do we listen to Him?"

Is that what you will say upon hearing that He loves you and that he died for your sins and that he wants you to be saved? Will that be your conclusion?OR.....

(2D) Will you react like those in Vs 21 "These are not the words of one with a demon. A demon cannot open the eyes of the blind. A demon doesn't want you to be saved. A demon cannot die ^{for} your sins....

^{FRiends} Oh, ~~no~~... ^{Jews} This is not a demon. ^{Jews} ~~This is one who~~ is the eternal God manifest in human flesh. He came into the World to show us God's love and to substitute his divine infinite life for the sum total of all human life.

He laid down his life for us and proved that He is the good shepherd.

John 10 is emphasizing the shepherd and his death.

In Hebrews 13:20 it says that the shepherd of the sheep is the one who came back from the dead. It emphasized his resurrection.

And in I Peter 5:4 it says that when Chief Shepherd shall appear then we will receive a ~~golden~~ crown of glory that will not fade away. And there ~~the~~ ~~we~~ we see the Good Shepherd in his second coming.

John 10...his death.

Hebrews 13...His resurrectionAND

I Peter 5 ..His return.

Jesus is the Shepherd ~~straight~~. And the sheep are going to respond to Him....

If you want to be saved, Jesus Christ is the only way. He is the only one who has paid for all sins.

LET US CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Will you receive Jesus as your Shepherd?

Christian = Follow me. That is what we need in this day and age - ~~those~~ people who are committed and follow Jesus