

<sup>1</sup>“I assure you: Anyone who doesn’t enter the sheep pen by the door but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber.” <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The doorkeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they recognize his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will never follow a stranger; instead they will run away from him, because they don’t recognize the voice of strangers.”

<sup>6</sup>Jesus gave them this illustration, but they did not understand what He was telling them.

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus said again, “I assure you: I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn’t listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>A thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

<sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and doesn’t own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>This happens because he is a hired man and doesn’t care about the sheep.

<sup>14</sup>“I am the good shepherd. I know My own sheep, and they know Me, <sup>15</sup>as the Father knows Me, and I know the Father. I lay down My life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>But I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd.

“thief” “robber” - Hosea 6:4-9; Zech. 5:1-4

“leads them out” “goes ahead of them” – Wilderness imagery (Ex. 13:21-22; Psa. 77:20)

- The shepherd doesn’t lead them anywhere that He isn’t willing to go Himself.

The shepherd has the type of relationship with His sheep such that He doesn’t need to strong-arm them into following Him; they know His voice and they trust him to lead.

“Stranger, danger!”

- Any other voice isn’t trustworthy, so the sheep don’t follow.

“they did not understand”

- They aren’t able to recognize the Shepherd’s voice...

“I am the door of the sheep”

- The shepherd would place himself in the midst of the doorway to inspect his sheep as they return to the pen, effectively becoming the door through which they have to enter.

“all who came before Me are thieves and robbers”

- May refer to false Messiahs who preceded Jesus. This will be a future threat, as well (Matt. 24:24).
- Or, possibly religious leaders who intimidate and lord their positions over the people.

“a thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy”

- Contrast with “saved” in the previous verse.

“so that they may have life and have it in abundance”

- Eternal life (see v 28) – This was God’s purpose in sending the Son (3:16)
  - cf 1:18; 4:14; 6:35, etc
- Side note: Jesus is not describing a “health and wealth” doctrine.

“good shepherd”

- Ezek. 34:23-24, 30-31 – “I will appoint over them a single Shepherd, my servant David.”

“the hired man”

- The hired man, although not a thief, is only concerned for his own safety.
  - (Apply this to the Pharisees’ attitude in 11:48 – “the Romans will come and take away our place and our position”)
  - As a result, the people have become “sheep without a shepherd” (Mk. 6:34)
    - Peter will warn the elders of the church against this type of attitude (1 Pet. 5:2-3).

“I know My own sheep, and they know Me”

- know = GR, *ginosko*, “familiarity” (1:10-13)
  - Not just intellectual knowledge, but recognition and association
  - As we seek out and come to recognize the Son, the Father recognizes us and seeks us out.
    - This is the concept behind being “blessed!”

“other sheep that are not of this fold”

- The Gentiles? All nations? (Consider Jn. 11:52 & Eph 2:11-19)

<sup>17</sup> This is why the Father loves Me, because I am laying down My life so I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down on My own. I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from My Father.”

<sup>19</sup> Again a division took place among the Jews because of these words. <sup>20</sup> Many of them were saying, “He has a demon and He’s crazy! Why do you listen to Him?” <sup>21</sup> Others were saying, “These aren’t the words of someone demon-possessed. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

<sup>22</sup> Then the Festival of Dedication took place in Jerusalem, and it was winter. <sup>23</sup> Jesus was walking in the temple complex in Solomon’s Colonnade. <sup>24</sup> Then the Jews surrounded Him and asked, “How long are You going to keep us in suspense? If You are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

<sup>25</sup> “I did tell you and you don’t believe,” Jesus answered them. “The works that I do in My Father’s name testify about Me. <sup>26</sup> But you don’t believe because you are not My sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish—ever! No one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one.”

<sup>31</sup> Again the Jews picked up rocks to stone Him.

<sup>32</sup> Jesus replied, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. Which of these works are you stoning Me for?”

<sup>33</sup> “We aren’t stoning You for a good work,” the Jews answered, “but for blasphemy, because You—being a man—make Yourself God.”

#### “This is why the Father loves Me”

- This is the love of a Father to a Son who is carrying on the Father’s legacy by accomplishing the Father’s will. (cf 8:39)
- The Father has fully equipped the Son to accomplish His task by granting Him all authority, especially over life and death: Jesus is in full control.
  - Remember, Jesus’ mission wasn’t complete at the point of His death, but at His resurrection (Acts 2:33-36).

- Another discourse, another division...

#### Festival of Dedication

- Hannukah → Celebration of the purification and re-dedication of the temple after the Maccabean revolt in 165 BC.

#### “then the Jews surrounded Him”

- Like wolves?

#### “you don’t believe because you are not My sheep”

- They are opposite examples of Jesus’ teaching in 10:5 – they don’t recognize the voice of the Shepherd.

#### “My sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow Me”

- The sheep in the Lord’s flock are characterized by obedience, the shepherd’s recognition and by their allegiance to Him.

#### “I give them eternal life”

- The ability to give eternal life is one of the works given by the authority of the Father, because it is His will for mankind to be saved. (3:16)

#### “The Father and I are one.”

- In essence and in purpose.
  - Consider this in light of what Jesus has already taught (5:19-23).
- This is also the description of the covenant God of Deut 6:4 – “*Hear o Israel, the Lord thy God is One...*”

#### “to stone Him”

- Stoning is the prescribed punishment for blasphemy (Lev. 24:16).

#### “You – being a man – make Yourself God”

- Ironically, Jesus actually did the reverse... (Phil 2)

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Isn’t it written in your scripture, I said, you are gods? <sup>35</sup> If He called those whom the word of God came to ‘gods’— and the Scripture cannot be broken— <sup>36</sup> do you say, ‘You are blaspheming’ to the One the Father set apart and sent into the world, because I said: I am the Son of God? <sup>37</sup> If I am not doing My Father’s works, don’t believe Me. <sup>38</sup> But if I am doing them and you don’t believe Me, believe the works. This way you will know and understand that the Father is in Me and I in the Father.” <sup>39</sup> Then they were trying again to seize Him, yet He eluded their grasp.

<sup>40</sup> So He departed again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and He remained there. <sup>41</sup> Many came to Him and said, “John never did a sign, but everything John said about this man was true.” <sup>42</sup> And many believed in Him there.

#### “you are gods”

- Psa 82:6 → This psalm is an appeal to the unjust judges who were supposed to be acting as God’s representatives to His people (cf Exod. 4:16; 7:1)
  - “gods” = *Elohim* (Exod. 21:1-6)
- This, Jesus asks if scripture, which can’t be destroyed, speaks of men in this way, why do you seek to destroy Me for speaking in the same manner about Myself?
  - He has been sanctified (set apart) for service, just as the officials in Psa 82 were.
  - The works He is performing validate His claims and His authority.
    - The works speak for themselves that Jesus has a unique relationship with the Father.
    - (He’ll use similar wording to Philip in 14:9-11 when Philip asks Jesus to ‘show us the Father’.)

Because Jesus is in full control.

Jesus heads to Perea, on the eastern side of the Jordan, to prepare for the final months of His earthly ministry in the place where His earthly ministry began...

#### “John never did a sign, but everything John said about this man was true”

- John’s mission is successful: John has decreased, Jesus has increased.