

THAT YOU MAY KNOW

One Shepherd to Lead Them All
John 10:1-10
August 21, 2022

MAIN POINT: Hear the voice of your shepherd and follow him, for he will guard you and protect you; and from his presence flows abundant life.

OF SHEPHERDS AND STRANGERS (vv. 1-6)

- A STRANGER BY ANY OTHER NAME (vv. 1, 5)
 - “Sheepfold” is translated elsewhere in the Gospels as “courtyard,” with religious connotations (e.g., John 18:15; cf. Rev. 11:2; Ps. 100:4).
 - Thieves and bandits show themselves to be strangers by the way they enter into the presence of God’s people, but God’s people will not follow a stranger’s voice (John 10:5).

- THE SHEPHERD (vv. 2-4)
 - The shepherd of God’s people enters by way of the door, which is narrow (cf. Luke 13:24).
 - Just as “sheepfold” has religious connotations, so too “door,” which was used regularly in the Old Testament to describe the entrance into the tent of meeting (Exod. 29:4, 10, 32, 42).
 - Unlike the ungodly shepherds of Ezekiel 34, Jesus, great King David’s greater Son and Yahweh’s anointed, enters into the sheepfold and calls his sheep by name, leading them out in a new exodus into a better land with green pastures and still waters (cf. Ps. 23).

- HEARING BUT NOT UNDERSTANDING (v. 6)
 - Jesus’s use of parables or figures of speech were meant not to expose but to conceal (Matt. 13:10-17), and this without removing culpability for sin.

THE GATE, THE THIEF, AND THE SHEEPFOLD (vv. 7-10)

- JESUS’S PROVISION AND PROTECTION (vv. 7, 9, 10b)
 - The shepherd not only enters through the door, but is the door itself; he is the narrow way (cf. Luke 13:24; John 14:6).
 - By Jesus, sheep find salvation from sin, freedom from the power of the prince of this age, and the blessing of eternal life and abundant joy (cf. Ps. 16:11).

- THIEVES AND BANDITS (vv. 8, 10a)
 - Many false shepherds have come before (cf. Jer. 23; Ezek. 34; Mic. 2; John 7-9), seeking to lead astray the people of God.
 - The works of thieves, bandits, and strangers reflect their father, the Devil (John 8:38, 44), who only seeks to steal, kill, and destroy.

Suggested Reading:

A Bruised Reed by Richard Sibbes

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read John 10:1-10

1. Has your appreciation for Jesus’ words in John 10:1-10 changed at all after placing them within the context of John 7-10? If so, in what ways?
2. In what ways do we see thieves and bandits entering into the courtyard of God’s people today? How are under-shepherds of the chief Shepherd to respond?
3. Share with your group when you first heard the voice of Jesus, the true and great Shepherd, calling you unto himself. Take some time afterwards to praise the sovereign God who calls light out of darkness and brings life from the dead.
4. How might Jesus’ description of himself being the door by which the sheep enter into and out of the courtyard provoke our culture? How might you respond to such provocations?
5. Compare and contrast the works of the Shepherd and the thief in John 10:1-10. Describe ways in which the Shepherd gives life, and ways in which the thief steals, kills, and destroys.