

Calvary Chapel Viewpoint

H.I.S. Men

(Honor – Integrity – Service)

Study in John

Sheep Know Their Shepherd

John 10:1–21 (ESV)

- ¹ “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber.
- ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.
- ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
- ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.
- ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”
- ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.
- ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “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 listen to them.
- ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by 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 does not own 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 cares nothing for the sheep.
- ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,
- ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.
- ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.
- ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.
- ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”
- ¹⁹ There was again a division among the Jews because of these words.
- ²⁰ Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?”
- ²¹ Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

Sheep Know Their Shepherd

Who were some of the great men of the Bible who were shepherds?

What do we know about sheep?

The sheep/shepherd picture here is an allegory or sustained metaphor. Who is the Shepherd?

Who is the man who does not enter by the gate but climbs in by some other way?

Who is the watchman?

What does the sheep pen or sheepfold refer to?

Verse 3 What does the shepherd do?

Who are the sheep?

Note: Some shepherds drive their sheep before them. However this shepherd, as many others do, goes before his sheep and leads them where he wants to take them. This description reflects the style of Jesus' leadership. He leads His disciples who follow Him.

Application: As the allegory applies to us today who are the sheep and what are their similarities? Those who listen to His voice, hear His voice, and know the Shepherd. Followers of Jesus. Christians. Us. We can be dumb, slow to listen, slow to follow.

What are the lessons/applications of this allegory?

- *The allegory teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ knows His sheep. He knows the weak ones and those that tend to stray and He loves the sheep in spite of their behavior. He knows and loves you with all your flaws, failures, and sin.*
- *The allegory teaches us that having known them, Jesus calls His own sheep by name. God gives some sheep to the Lord Jesus (6:37 & 39) He calls them out of the pen. There are a lot of sheep in the pen but not all come when called by the Shepherd. Not all recognize His voice. Some choose to follow other masters. Not all the sheep follow. Not all people are saved.*
- *The allegory teaches us that having known His own sheep and having called them, the Lord Jesus Christ leads them out.*

Note: There is a tension in the Bible between the sovereignty of God (as in the doctrine of election) and the responsibility of man.

- *But all those whom God has given to Jesus are saved. Christians are God's chosen people today. God calls us all but doesn't choose us all (John 12:32). Jesus calls the sheep, they follow and their job is to bring the rest of the sheep into the sheepfold*
- *We see the responsibility of man described in verse 9: whoever enters through me will be saved.*

To what does He lead them?

Application: What are our sheepfolds that Christ leads us out of? The world, hedonism, life of decadence, self-service, blindness.

Note: The point of these verses is how God forms His flock. People come to Jesus because He calls them, and they follow Him because they belong to Him. Many of the Jews who hear Jesus' voice disregard Him because they consider Abraham or Moses or some famous rabbi as their shepherd.

Application: Have you been hearing the voice of your Shepherd lately? Where do we hear the voice of our shepherd? Word of God, church

How do we recognize the stranger's voice?

In verse 7 Jesus states the third I AM as what?

What is purpose of the Gate?

How is Jesus the Gate (verse 9)?

Jesus refers to these false shepherds as thieves and robbers (verses 1, 8, 10). Who are they and how do they steal, kill and destroy?

Application: Who are some of the thieves and robbers in our lives today? David Koresh, James Jones, Cults, Hare Krishna. Religious leaders who lead us astray.

How can we recognize modern day imposters?

Note: Why the thief comes (steal, kill, and destroy) contrasts sharply with why Jesus comes (to give life abundantly).

In verse 11 Jesus states the fourth I AM as what?

How does the Good Shepherd compare with the hired shepherd? Different motivation. Attitude is the crucial difference between a true shepherd and a hireling.

Application: In our lives today, who are the hired shepherds? People who are leading the flock without concern for the flock's well being. People who choose the ministry as a comfortable occupation or for the prestige without true love for God's sheep.

Verse 16 Who are the other sheep?

Note: Jesus doesn't say "I will have other sheep" or "I hope to have other sheep" but "I have." It is present tense = now.

What is the vision associated with gathering in the other sheep?

Who killed Jesus? (See verses 11, 15, 17, 18.)

Application: How is your relationship with the Good Shepherd? Are you staying close to Him, or are you lost and wandering around?