

“Shepherds, Sheep, & Scoundrels”

John 10:1-21

April 20, 2014

EASTER

VIDEO: John 9:35 – 10:6

I. CRECENDO: Pinnacle of the Festival’s Point!

II. CONTEXT:

A. John 7,8,9

- ***Feast of Shelters:***
 - Living Water: Rivers flowing out... (Spirit)
 - Light of the World: life-giving/sustaining...
- The ***Truth (Jesus) will set you free... free indeed!***
- Direct confrontation: ***“...your father the Devil!”***
- John 9 (living, breathing, ***seeing proof***)

B. John 10:22ff = opens Hanukkah

III. CHARACTERS: (watch for roles & repetition)

- **Thief** = covert, sneaky stealing of sheep
- **Robber** = violent, life-threatening stealing of sheep
- **Shepherd** = loving, invested, sheep defender/owner
- **Gate-keeper** = hired-hand, part-time sheep manager
- **Stranger** = (cf. thief and/or robber)
- **Sheep** = stupid but loved, all-dependent creatures...
 - A). Some owned by the Shepherd
 - B). Some NOT owned by the Shepherd

T/S: Remember: Jesus is doing ALL this for ONE reason

John 20:31 = *But all these things have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah/Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing in Him you will have life by the power of His name.*

IV. CONVERSATION: (starts w/ general PRINCIPLES)

1“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.

WATCH OUT! for “bad guys” IN the flock! (Acts 20:29)

2 *“But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep.*

“a” shepherd **vs.** **THE** Shepherd is contextual key

Note **“front door” Shepherds vs. back room Scoundrels**

3 *“To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.*

- Real shepherds are recognized by workers
- Sheep KNOW their shepherd’s voice...
- Shepherds are PERSONAL with their sheep
- Shepherds LEAD their sheep.

4 *“When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.*

- Shepherds care for ALL their OWN sheep
- Shepherds lead/PROTECT from the FRONT
- True sheep FOLLOW their true Shepherd.
- Sheep can follow because they KNOW his VOICE

5 *“A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.”*

- True sheep cannot be fooled into following fakes
- True sheep flee fakes...
- True sheep don't GO to whom they don't KNOW!

V. CONTRASTS:

- **Shepherds vs. Scoundrels** (*Thieves & Robbers*)
 - "a" shepherd vs. ***"the" Shepherd***
 - "a" shepherd can be a "good" shepherd
 - "a" shepherd can be a "bad" shepherd
 - ***"the"*** Shepherd can only be Jesus! (v.11)
 - Thief vs. Robber (2 distinct enemies)
- **Entrance efforts:**
 - Climbing over the protective walls
 - Walking in thru the gate/door
- **Knowing the sheep by name** vs. Not knowing...
 - Leading sheep vs. Watching or Stealing sheep
- **Owned & obedient sheep vs non-responsive sheep**
 - Following vs. Fleeing

T/S: Here comes that first bout of confusion...

6 *This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.*

T/S: This spiritual blindness (vs. man of John 9) still plagues people today... **1 Cor. 2:14 & 2 Cor. 44**

VI. CLARIFICATION:

7 *So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the gate of the sheep.**”*

- Amen, Amen again... Amen, Amen again!
- **“I am the gate”**
 - Points to **cross**
 - Points to **John 14:6**
- **“of the sheep”** = NOT goats, wolves or chickens

8 *“All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.*

- ALL other previous “gates” were Scoundrels!
- Note: even then, the Shepherd lost NO sheep!

9 *"I am the gate; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.*

- **Again (2X), "I am the gate"**
- Picture laying across the opening...
- Note: conditional invitation is universal ("anyone")
- **THINK: Sermon on the Mount... "narrow gate"**

- *"anyone enters thru ME will be saved"*
 - "ME" = key word in the entire verse!
 - This verse is repeating promise of **John 3:16**

- "saved" in parable = ...saved from:
 - being taken away by thieves
 - being slaughtered by robbers
 - being completely obliterated by bad guys

- "will go in and out and find pasture" =
 - Liberty & freedom
 - Protective care brings peace
 - Provision is provided to sheep by shepherds

10 *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;*

I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly.

- Bad guys... do bad things!
- **Steal** = take you away with bad intentions.
- **Kill** = end your life (Gk. = "slaughter")
- **Destroy** = dishonoring & devastating death process

VII.CONFRONTATION:

11 *"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.*

- NOTE: stay tuned for next week!
- Jesus is poking the Pharisee in the eyes AGAIN
- Use of the **article "the"** is HUGE contextual point
- **"good"** = "model," "noble," "beautiful"
- Jesus is CONTRASTING... again!
- Jesus is **contextually foretelling of His cross**

23rd Psalm: **1***The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not want.*

2*He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.*

3*He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

4*Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod AND Your staff,
they comfort me.*

5*You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.*

6*Surely goodness and loving-kindness will follow me
all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD
FOREVER!*

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.

- Beware the “hired hands!”
- Hirelings are not Shepherds, nor “Owners”
- Hirelings run away at the SIGHT of wolves...
- Hirelings give up the sheep without a fight...
- Wolves look for hirelings... = easy sheep.
- Religion without relationship always runs away!

Jesus describes & defines the unholy hireling by contrast:

- NOT a child of the owner
- NOT committed beyond an ROI financial analysis
- NOT courageous
- NOT concerned for the sheep’s well being & safety
- NOT Christ-like in character
- NOT cleared of charges in death of 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.***

- “I am the GOOD Shepherd” (2X)
- “I know My own & My own know Me” = RELATIONSHIP
- See **John 17:21 being foretold!**
- Again.... “I lay down My life for the sheep” (2X)

VIDEO: Jesus on the Cross & Psalm 22

T/S: Watch now as Jesus begins to expand our horizons... and the distain of His religious enemies.

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.*

Jesus announces that He has "other sheep not of this fold"

- Jesus says: "I must bring them also" (thus WE do to)
- Jesus says: "...they will hear My voice..."
- Jesus says: "...they will become one flock..."
- Jesus says: He'll be the "one Shepherd" of all sheep
- Jesus says: (by implication... the Great Commission)

"I Stand By The Door"

By Sam Shoemaker

"I stand by the door. I neither go too far in, nor stay too far out, The door is the most important door in the world — It is the door through which men walk when they find God.

There's no use my going way inside, and staying there, When so many are still outside, and they, as much as I, crave to know where the door is.

And all that so many ever find is only the wall where a door ought to be... They creep along the wall like blind men with outstretched, groping hands, feeling for a door, *knowing there must be a door... yet they never find it.*

So I stand by the door.

"The most tremendous thing in the world is for men to find that door—the door to God.

The most important thing any man can do is to take hold of one of those blind, groping hands, and put it on the latch—the latch that only clicks and opens to the man's own touch.

Men die outside that door, as starving beggars die on cold nights in cruel [cities](#) in the dead of winter — they die for want of what is within their grasp.

They live, on the other side of it — they live because they have found it. **Nothing else matters compared to helping them find the door** and open it, and walk in, and **find Him.**

So I stand by the door.

"Go in, great saints... go all the way in. Go way down into the cavernous cellars, and way up into the spacious attics — into this vast, roomy house, this house where God is.

Go into the deepest of hidden casements, of withdrawal, of silence, of sainthood. *Some* must inhabit those inner rooms, and know the depths and heights of God... *And then call outside to the rest of us how wonderful it is.*

Sometimes I take a deeper look in... Sometimes I venture a little farther in; but my place seems closer to the opening . . .

So I stand by the door.

“The people too far in do not see how near some are to leaving — (those too far in can seem) preoccupied with the wonder of it all.

Somebody must watch for those who have just entered the door but would like to run away.

So for them, too, I stand by the door.

“I admire the people who go way in... **But I wish they would not forget how it was before they got in.**

Then they would be able to **help** the people who have **not even found the door**, or the people who want to run away again from God.

You can go in too deeply, and stay in too long, **and forget the people outside the door.**

As for me, I shall take my old accustomed place, near enough to God to hear Him, and know He is there, BUT...

not so far from men as not to hear them, And remember
they are there too.

Where? Outside the door...

Thousands of them, millions of them... (billions of them)...

But—more important for me...

One of them... **two** of them... **ten** of them...

Whose hands **I am intended to put on the latch...**

So... **I shall stand by the door and wait for those
who seek it.**

'I had rather be a door-keeper . . .'

So I stay near the door."

VIII. CHRISTOLOGY!

GREAT Friday & Easter Sunday = vv.17-18

17"For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. **18**"No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

A. Jesus (v.17)

- God the Father loves Jesus & His faithful obedience
- God the Father knows the plan... & loves the plan
- God the Father & God the Son are unified on this!

Jesus lays down His life... no one “takes it” from Him

Jesus has the authority and the ability of Creator-God!

Again... God the Father & God the Son are ONE!

JESUS IS GOD!

B. Jesus (v.18)

- See the LOVE...
- See the POWER...
- See the PROVIDENCE & SOVEREIGNTY...
- See the MESSIAH... (vs. a “martyr”)

VIDEO: John 10:1-21

IX. COMMENTARY:

*19*A division occurred again among the Jews because of these words. *20*Many of them were saying, “He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?” *21*Others were saying, “These are not the sayings of one demon-possessed. A demon cannot open the eyes of the blind, can he?”

*** And here we are... right back to where we started

It's no different today...

Even amongst those attending Holy Week or Easter Sunday services.

In our "churched context" the question is:

Are you a fan or a follower?

Do you know *about* Him... or do you KNOW Him?

Did you DIE with Him?

When He came down off of His cross,
did you pick up yours?

Are you "playing" church... or BE-ing Church?

T/S: Here's the application of the celebration!

X. CRUX of the CHRISTIAN DECISION:

****The best way to honor
His death for YOU
is to LIVE your life for HIM...***

*Have you truly, in a miraculously
transformative way, realized that HE
PAID IT ALL for those who
surrender to Him & embrace His grace*

VIDEO: “He Paid It All”

Let's PRAY.