

***“The Shepherd Of The Sheep”***  
***John 10:1-6***

**Introduction:**

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles:
  - To John 10 This Morning:
    - Where - Even Though:
      - We Are Beginning A New Chapter:
        - In This Gospel!
    - It Is Closely Connected To:
      - The Events That Took Place:
        - In The Previous Chapter:
          - Where Jesus Healed:
            - A Man Who Was Born Blind!
  - And - As We Just Saw In Chapter 9
    - The Man Was Not Only Healed:
      - Physically - He Was Also Healed:
        - Spiritually - When - In 9:38:
          - He Said To Jesus: “Lord, I Believe!”
            - And Was Saved!
2. And - Through This:
  - Jesus Taught That There Was A Difference:
    - Between That Man:
      - Who *Experienced* Jesus' Work:
        - In His Life!
      - And - The Pharisees:
        - Who *Opposed* Jesus' Work:
          - In His Life!
    - The Difference Between:
      - The Man Who - Though:
        - He Had Been Blind:
          - In His Eyes!
        - Was Now Able To See:
          - With Both His Eyes & His Heart! And:
      - The Pharisees Who - Though:
        - They Could See:
          - With Their Eyes!
        - Were Actually Blind:
          - In Their Hearts!
  - 3. And So - At The End Of Chapter 9:
    - Jesus Explained To The Now Fully-Healed Man:
      - *Why The Pharisees:*
        - Responded To Jesus:
          - The Way *They* Did!
      - It Was Ultimately Because Of:
        - The Callousness & Hardness Of Their Hearts:
          - Because Of Their Sin!
  - 4. But Now - As We Start Here In Chapter 10:
    - Jesus Explains To The Pharisees:
      - *Why The Man Born Blind:*
        - Responded To Jesus:
          - The Way *He* Did!
      - It Was Ultimately Because Of:
        - The Change That Was Made In His Heart:
          - By The Grace Of God!
    - A Change That Can Only Take Place:
      - In The Life Of One Of:
        - His Sheep!

5. And So - In 10:1-6 - Jesus Uses:
  - A Special Illustration:
    - To Impress This Truth:
      - Upon All Of Our Hearts!
    - The Truth That:
      - He Alone Is:
        - “The Shepherd Of The Sheep!”
        - And - His Sheep Will Follow Him!
  - Let’s Read These Verses Together:
    - 10:1-6 - “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. / But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. / To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. / And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. / And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. / This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them!”
6. Now - Even Though Jesus Is Going To:
  - Expand On This Illustration:
    - In The Following Verses:
      - He Begins By Using A Phrase That Should, By Now, Be Familiar To Us:
        - In The Gospel Of John!
    - “Verily, Verily, I Say Unto You!”
      - This Is The 15th Time Out Of 25 Times:
        - It Is Used:
          - In All Of John!
      - And - As We’ve Pointed Out Each Time Before:
        - Jesus Uses This Phrase To Introduce:
          - A Special Truth!
      - A Truth That Is Certain!
        - “Verily” / “Truly” / “Amen” / Twice!
      - A Truth That Is Changeless!
        - Because Truth Is Not Relative! Truth Is Timeless!
      - A Truth That Is Consequential!
        - And Absolutely Vital To Listen To And Learn From!
7. And - Jesus Reveals This Truth:
  - Directly To The Pharisees:
    - Who Had Just Asked Jesus - Back In 9:40:
      - “Are We Blind Also?”
  - And - In Effect:
    - Jesus Tells Them:
      - Not Only Are You:
        - *Blind* To The Truth!
      - You Are Also:
        - *Deaf* To The Truth!
    - Because - You Are Not:
      - One Of My Sheep!
  - And This Was One Of The Main Differences:
    - Between *Them* - And:
      - *The Man Born Blind!*
    - And So - Starting In 10:1 - Jesus Describes:
1. ***The Contrast Between The Shepherd:***
  - And A Thief!
    - Again - 10:1-2 - “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. / But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep!”
  - Now - In 10:6 - John Tells Us That:
    - This Is A “Parable” - Or - Another Way To Put It:

- A “Figure Of Speech” - Or Even:
  - An “Object Lesson!”
- This Means That Parts Of His Story Will Carry A Deeper, Spiritual Meaning Than What’s On The Surface!
  - However - Not Every Part Of The Story Will Have That Kind Of Meaning!
    - Sometimes - A Detail Is Given That Just Supports The Story & Moves It Along:
      - With No Further Significance Or Symbolism!
- Well - Its Clear That Some Of The Parts:
  - That *Are* Significant Include:
    - The Door!
    - The Sheepfold!
    - The Thief!
    - The Shepherd! And:
    - The Sheep!
  - In Fact - All Of These:
    - Are Explained Further By Jesus:
      - In The Rest Of Chapter 10!
- But - Each Of These Parts:
  - Were Also Very Familiar:
    - To The Audience Jesus Was Speaking To!
  - An Audience That:
    - Knew About & Used Sheep:
      - In So Many Ways!
        - For Food!
        - For Clothing!
        - For Worship!
- And - A Public “Sheepfold” Would Have Been:
  - A Familiar Sight:
    - Around Jerusalem!
  - A Large, Open-Air Pen:
    - With Walls Made Up Of Rocks & Stones:
      - Usually Topped Off With Thorns And Briers:
        - To Keep Animals & Thieves Out!
  - At A Narrow Opening In The Wall:
    - A Single Gate Was Placed:
      - So That It Could Be Guarded By:
        - A “Porter” - Who Would Know The Shepherds!
- And So - With This In Mind:
  - Jesus Tells The Pharisees About:
- The Difference In Coming:
  - Between The Shepherd & A Thief!
  - The Shepherd - 10:2 - Would Enter:
    - “By The Door!”
      - That Is - The Right Way!
    - The Door Was The Way:
      - Planned By The Shepherds:
        - To Approach & To Provide For The Needs Of Their Sheep!
  - However - The Thief - 10:1 - Was Entering:
    - “*Not* By The Door!”
      - “But Is Climbing Up Some Other Way!”
        - Likely - As Far From The Gate & The Porter As Possible:
          - So As Not To Be Seen!
    - Later - In 10:10 - Jesus Gives The Reason Why!
      - “The Thief Cometh Not, But For To Steal, And To Kill, And To Destroy!”
- And - The Scene Jesus Presents To Us Here:
  - Is A Lively Scene!
    - Its As If Its Taking Place:
      - In Real Time!

- The Thief Is Already In The Process:
  - Of Climbing Over The Wall:
    - To Steal As Many Sheep:
      - As He Can!
- And That Is Why - Jesus Further Tells Us About:
- The Difference In Character:
  - Between The Shepherd & The Thief!
  - The Shepherd:
    - Wants The Best For His Sheep!
      - Because, They Belong To Him!
    - And So - As He Hears About The Thief:
      - He Goes To Get His Flock:
        - Out Of Danger! But:
  - The Thief:
    - Cares Nothing For The Sheep:
      - But Only For Himself!
    - And So - He Does Not Even Consider:
      - The Anxiety & Fear & Pain:
        - That Those Living Creatures:
          - Might Experience!
        - **IE:** In Scotland - Sheep Everywhere - Missionary Told Me About A Law - Against -  
“Worrying” The Sheep!
      - But - The Thief Doesn’t Care!
        - The Thief - Is Really:
          - A Thug!
    - Jesus Describes Him As Both:
      - A “Thief And A Robber!”
        - Whereas A Thief:
          - Would Steal In Secret!
        - A Robber:
          - Would Do So Openly And Violently!
    - And So - The Contrast:
      - Between The Shepherd & The Thief:
        - Is Great! Like - Night & Day!
          - And - The Point Is That:
            - Only The Shepherd Belongs In The Sheepfold!
        - And - As Jesus Will Go On To Explain:
          - Not Only Is He The Shepherd In The Story:
            - He Is Also The Door:
              - Through Which His Sheep Might Find Safety & Refuge:
                - From Their Enemies!
          - So - The Sheepfold Describes A Place:
            - Where Many Shepherds:
              - Would Keep Their Flocks!
            - Most Likely, It Refers To:
              - The Nation Of Israel:
                - Since - In 10:16 - Jesus Says - “Other Sheep I Have, Which Are Not Of This Fold!”
              - But - As We’ve Seen Throughout John:
                - Not All Of The:
                  - “Children Of Israel” Were:
                    - The Children Of God!
                  - So - Though They Might Have Been:
                    - Part Of One National Fold:
                      - They Were Not Part Of Jesus’ Flock!
              - And - As The Shepherd:
                - Jesus Was The Only One:
                  - Who Had The *Right To Go & To Save & To Lead* God’s True Children & Flock:

- Out Of The Place Of Danger & Deception & Distress!
- And - As The Door:
  - He Came To Them:
    - Through A Message Of “Grace And Truth!” (Gospel!)
- But - The Thieves:
  - Were Those Who Used:
    - Other Ways & Means:
      - To Get At God’s People!
  - Not To Serve Them:
    - But To Consume Them!
      - Much Like The Pharisees Did!
- We Need To Remember:
  - The Great Contrast Between:
    - The True Shepherd Of God’s Flock:
      - And Everyone Else:
        - Who Does Not Approach Us:
          - Through The Door Of Christ And His Gospel!
  - And Since - Jesus Came To Us:
    - As The True Shepherd Of His Sheep:
      - We Ought To Follow Him!
        - Especially When We Learn More About:

**2. *The Care Of The Shepherd:***

- For His Sheep!
  - And We Find This In:
    - 10:3-4a - “To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. / And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them!”
      - What Care & Concern We Find:
        - By This Shepherd:
          - For His Sheep!
    - Because - Even As:
      - The Thief Is “Climbing Up Some Other Way!”
        - We See That This Shepherd Is Already:
  - Coming For His Sheep!
    - He Comes Right Up To The Gate - And:
      - Right Up To The Porter:
        - So That He Might Let Him In:
          - To Retrieve His Sheep!
    - Now - Even Though:
      - The Shepherd Was Absent From His Sheep:
        - For A Time - It Does Not Mean That:
          - He Did Not Care:
            - For Them!
    - He Left Them In The Care Of:
      - The Porter - Or - “Gate-Keeper!”
        - Who Knew Both:
          - The Shepherd & The Sheep!
            - And “Opened” The Door To Bring Them Both Together!
    - So Far - The Sheep Themselves:
      - Know Nothing About What’s Going On:
        - With The Thief Coming For Them!
          - “To Steal, And To Kill, And To Destroy!”
  - But - When The Porter Opens The Door:
    - Help Has Arrived!
      - Through The Shepherd Himself!
    - This Porter:
      - May Represent The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit - Who:
        - “Opens The Everlasting Doors Of The Hearts Of Men . . . And Lets Him In

Unto Them!” (Gill)

- If Jesus Cared Enough:
  - To Come For You:
    - Won't You Follow Him:
      - As Your Shepherd?
  - We Can Also See From 10:3:
    - The Shepherd's:
- Calming Of His Sheep!
  - Because - There We Are Told That:
    - “The Sheep Hear His Voice!”
      - So Far - His Voice Is Not Directed:
        - To The Sheep - But Perhaps:
          - To The Porter - Or To Others Nearby!
      - But - When They Heard His Voice:
        - The Sheep Recognized His Voice:
          - And Would Have Experienced A “Peace That Passeth All Understanding!”
  - Isn't This What Happens:
    - When You Are Given The Ears You Need To Hear:
      - The Good News Of The Gospel?
        - The Holy Spirit Opens The Door So That Jesus Himself Might Speak To You With His Voice!
      - A “Voice Of Love, Grace, And Mercy! Which Proclaims Peace, Pardon, Liberty, Life, Righteousness, And Salvation; And Which Is A Soul-Quickening, Alluring, Delighting, Refreshing, And Comforting Voice!” (John Gill)
- If Jesus Cared & Cares Enough:
  - To Calm You:
    - Through The Voice Of His Word:
      - Won't You Follow Him:
        - As Your Shepherd?
  - We Can Also See From 10:3:
    - The Shepherd's:
- Calling To His Sheep!
  - 10:3 - “And He Calleth His Own Sheep By Name!”
    - **IE:** Even Today - In Some Parts Of The Middle East - Shepherds Can Call Their Sheep By Name Or By Signal! And They Will Come One-By-One!
      - And - The Shepherd In Jesus' Story Does The Same Thing - Because He Knows The Danger “His Own Sheep” Are In!
  - He Calls Out With Persistence!
    - He Keeps On Calling His Sheep:
      - So That Not A Single One Is Lost!
    - And - He Will Keep On Calling His Sheep:
      - Until The Last One:
        - Is Safely Gathered To His Side!
  - He Calls Out With Purpose!
    - He Calls For “His Own” Sheep! (2x - 10:3 & 4)
      - This Indicates That There Were Other Sheep In The Fold:
        - Who Belonged To Another Shepherd - Or - To No Shepherd At All!
    - But - What Happened To Their Shepherd?
      - Did *He* Care For Them?
      - Did *He* Come To Them?
      - Did *He* Call Out To Them?
      - Or - Did He Just *Abandon* Them:
        - To The Whims Of The Thieves And Robbers Of This World?
      - But - This Shepherd:
        - Did Care! So:
  - He Calls Out With Power!
    - And - With Just The Sound Of His Voice:
      - He Brings Each One Of His Sheep:

- To His Side!
- This Is What Jesus Does:
  - For All Of His Sheep!
    - “He Calleth His Own Sheep By Name!”
  - What God Said About Israel:
    - In Isaiah 40:31 - He Says To You:
      - “But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, and he that formed thee, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine!”
  - And - If Jesus Cared Enough:
    - To Call You In This Way:
      - Won't You Follow Him:
        - As Your Shepherd?
- We Can Also See From 10:3:
  - The Shepherd's:
- Conducting Of His Sheep!
  - Because - 10:3 - He - “Leadeth Them Out!”
    - But - Where? In This Part Of His Story:
      - The Shepherd Leads His Sheep:
        - *Out Of The Fold!*
  - Now - Even Though The Fold:
    - May Have Seemed To The Sheep:
      - To Be The Safest Place In All The World To Be!
        - We Can See That:
    - The *Only* Safe Place:
      - For The Sheep To Be - In The World:
        - Was With Their Shepherd!
  - Because - The Sheep-Fold Became:
    - A Place Of Danger & Deception & Distress!
      - But - The Side Of The Shepherd:
        - Was A Place Of Love & Joy & Peace!
- And - Once The Shepherd:
  - Gets All Of His Sheep Out Of The Fold:
    - How Does He Lead & Conduct Them?
      - 10:4 - “And When He Putteth Forth His Own Sheep, He Goeth Before Them!”
  - **IE:** This Is Different Than How Sheep Are Herded In Western Countries! Even Here - They Are “Driven”
  - Often Using Dogs! But - Back Then & There - The Shepherd Would “Lead” His Sheep - By “Going Before Them!”
    - And - This Too Is How Jesus Leads & Conducts His Sheep!
      - Not By *Driving* Them!
        - From The Rear!
      - But *Guiding* Them!
        - From The Front!
      - Nothing Will Meet His Sheep:
        - Without Meeting Him First!
  - All That We Find In:
    - The Shepherd Psalm - Psalm 23:
      - Is True Of This Shepherd!
        - Our Lord Jesus Christ!
    - “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. / He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. / He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. / Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. / Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. / Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever!”
- If Jesus Cared Enough:
  - To Come For You!
  - To Calm You!

- To Call You! And:
- To Conduct You!
  - Won't You Follow Him:
    - Day-By-Day - As Your Shepherd?
    - Listen To His Voice:
      - Through His Word!
    - Respond To His Voice:
      - Through Obedience To His Word!
- And - This Will Be True For You:
  - If You Are In-Fact One Of His Sheep:
    - Because Of:

### 3. ***The Confidence In The Shepherd:***

- By His Sheep - That We Find In:
  - 10:4b-5 - "And the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. / And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers!"
  - Here - Jesus Reminds The Pharisees That:
- The Sheep *Will Follow*:
  - Their Shepherd!
    - This Was Such A Common-Place Truth:
      - That It Probably Seemed Unnecessary For Him To Even Say!
    - But - Through This Illustration:
      - Jesus Explained:
        - Why & How The Man Born Blind Came To See & Believe In Jesus!
        - It Was Because He Was One Of His Sheep!
  - And - He Followed Jesus:
    - By *Turning To* Jesus:
      - And - By *Tuning In*:
        - To His Voice!
    - Again - 10:4b:
      - "The Sheep Follow Him: For / Because They Know His Voice!"
  - And Now - It Didn't Matter:
    - Where Jesus, As The Shepherd Of That Man's Soul, Would Lead Him!
      - Even If It Was:
        - Out Of The "Fold" That:
          - He Had Grown Up In & Knew So Well! And:
      - Even If It Was:
        - Into The "Field" Of A World:
          - That Seemed To Strange & Foreign & Dangerous To Him!
  - He Would Follow Jesus:
    - Because - He Trusted In Jesus!
      - And - So Can You!
        - *Trust* Him!
        - *Turn To* Him!
        - And - Keep *Tuning In* To Him!
    - Because - He Will Keep Speaking To You:
      - With The Same Voice:
        - That He Called You By!
      - A Voice Full:
        - Of Grace & Truth!
    - But Then - Jesus Adds In 10:5 That:
- The Sheep *Will Flee*:
  - From Strangers!
    - Again - A Common-Place Truth!
      - But One That Should Encourage:
        - God's Flock! Because:
    - 10:5 - "A Stranger Will They Not Follow, But Will Flee From Him: For / Because They Know Not The Voice Of Strangers!"



- This Shows Us That:
  - There Is Absolute Safety & Security:
    - When You Are A Member Of Jesus' Flock!
- All Of Jesus' Sheep Will Ultimately:
  - *Turn From* - And:
    - *Tune Out* - The Voice:
      - Of The Stranger!
- Even Though You Might Hear:
  - All Kinds Of Sounds & Voices:
    - That Will Try To:
      - Distract You & Discourage You & Even Derail You!
  - Ultimately - They *Cannot* - And:
    - They *Will Not* Prevail!
      - Because As We Are Told In Isaiah 40:11 - "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young!"
- So - If You Have Heard:
  - The Call Of Jesus As Your Shepherd:
    - To Believe In Him:
      - Then - *Be Confident* In Him!
      - And - *Trust* Him!
    - And Keep:
      - *Turning To Him & Tuning In* To His Voice:
        - As You Follow Him!

### Conclusion:

1. And Yet - What Does John Tell Us Happened:
  - Right After Jesus:
    - Spoke This Parable / Illustration Unto Them?
      - 10:6 - "But They Understood Not What Things They Were Which He Spake Unto Them!"
  - And - This Response:
    - Proved The Very Point Jesus Was Making:
      - Through His Story!
    - So - Even Though:
      - They *Heard* Jesus' Words:
        - They Did Not *Understand* His Words:
          - Because They Were Not:
            - "The Sheep Of His Pasture!" (Psalm 100:3)
2. In Other Words:
  - They Were As Spiritually *Deaf*:
    - To The *Words* Of Jesus:
      - As They Were Spiritually *Blind*:
        - To His *Works*!
  - Yet - How They *Needed*:
    - To Hear & Understand Jesus' Words!
      - Because - It Was The Most:
        - Certain & Consequential Truth:
          - They Would Ever Hear!
3. But - If You Have Been:
  - Given Ears To Hear This Truth:
    - Even Like The Man Born Blind:
      - What Are You Doing With This Truth?
  - Remember:
    - This Is Why:
      - Jesus Came To You:
        - Through The Door Of The Gospel!
    - This Is Why:
      - Jesus Calmed You:

- As The Holy Spirit Brought:
    - Light & Life Into Your Heart!
  - This Is Why:
    - Jesus Called Out To You:
      - With His Own Voice:
        - By Name! And:
    - This Is Why:
      - Jesus Is Now Conducting & Guiding You:
        - Through The Wilderness Of This World!
  - According To:
    - 10:4 - "He Goeth Before Them, And The Sheep Follow Him!"
      - He Goes Before You:
        - So That You Might:
          - Follow Him!
4. Are You Following Jesus:
- The Way These Sheep Follow Their Shepherd?
    - Fully & Completely & Without Reservation?
      - What Is Holding You Back?
      - What Strange Voice Is Distracting You?
      - What Sins Are Deterring You?
      - What Struggles Are Discouraging You?
  - "The Sheep Follow Him!"
    - So - Follow Jesus As Your Shepherd:
      - With All Of Your Heart!

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