

## "Who is Jesus?": The Good Shepherd

### John 10:11-21

#### Introduction:

- Connect with conclusion of Chp.9
- This concludes the interaction with the Pharisees related to the healing of the blind beggar on the Sabbath
- **John 10:1-7**, Jesus is the Door (the only way to enter)
- **John 20:30-31** explains the purpose in all John's recording of signs
- Today, we see where Christ is the Shepherd of the sheep, essentially being the way-maker through the door

#### Christ, The Good Shepherd (vv.11-18)

- A) The Shepherd's Identity (v.11)
  - a. Shepherd's Name
    - i. **Psalm 23:1-2**, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters." (**John 10:9**)
    - ii. **Psalm 80:1**, "Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth."
    - iii. "**I AM**"
  - b. Shepherd's Action (Sacrifice)
    - i. Nature (atonement)
      1. "for" means "instead of" not "on behalf of"
      2. No mere example or moral act
    - ii. Extent (for the sheep)
      1. All benefit from Christ's death, but not in the same way. He died for the sheep.
      2. Extends to sinning sheep, not angels or other beings

#### B) The Shepherd's Warning (v.12-13)

- a. Nature of the Hired Hand
  - i. Unclear who they are (the Pharisees, undershepherds...)
  - ii. What is clear is that this is juxtaposed against Christ's nature as the Good Shepherd
- b. Actions of the Hired Hand
  - i. Leave when threatened
  - ii. For self
  - iii. Calvin points out that the emphasis is on the Single Shepherd of the sheep. Even a faithful pastor cannot claim the church as his own, because He could not pay for them as the Good Shepherd paid for them.

#### C) The Shepherd's Relationship with the Sheep (vv.14-16b)

- a. Perfect
- b. By Name (**John 10:3**)
- c. Intimate
  - i. Relationship with the Father
  - ii. Unique with the Church (Eph.5:25)
- d. Atoning
  - i. "for" – In place of
  - ii. **Romans 5:6-8**, "6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- e. All Sheep (v.16)
  - i. Why sheep?
  - ii. Aimless & Helpless

#### D) The Shepherd's Aim for the Sheep (v.16c)

- a. One Flock (poimne)
  - i. KJV gets it wrong here. "Aule" is fold in verse 16 meaning a larger group. Poimne

- refers to the sheep who are led by a shepherd, a smaller group
  - ii. PNTC points out that Wycliffe had already translated this correctly prior to the KJV publication in 1611
  - b. One Shepherd (poimen)
    - i. Tie back to vv.1-5
    - ii. The church's task (**Matt.28:18-20**)
- E) The Shepherd's Provision for the Sheep (**vv.17-18**)
- a. In Love
  - b. Through the Cross (for the purpose of the resurrection)
  - c. Out of the Grave
    - i. Purpose of the cross
    - ii. Bears light on nature of evil and God's sovereignty
  - d. By His Authority
    - i. Who can touch God?
    - ii. Willingly laid down for the sheep
    - iii. Powerfully risen to secure His own (**John 6:35-40**, “*35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”*
- F) APPLICATION:
- a. Do you realize God loves you?

- b. Do you realize His love is shown in Christ's life and death and resurrection?
- c. Do you believe that Christ did all this in your place?
- d. Are you His sheep? Do you live like it?

### **Christ, The Great Debate (vv.19-21)**

- A) Jesus Christ is Provocative (**v.19**)
- a. **Matthew 10:34**, “*Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.*”
  - b. **Mere Christianity**, C.S. Lewis stated, “*I am ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon, or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.*
  - c. **Romans 9:30-33**, “*30 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; 31 but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 as it is written, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”*

d. **1 Peter 2:4-10**, “4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture: ‘Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’ 7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,’ 8 and ‘A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.’ They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

B) The Rejecters (**v.20**)

- a. Demonize Christ
- b. Vilify Christ
- c. Reject Christ (won’t even listen)

C) The Inquisitors (**v.21**)

- a. Curious
- b. Questioning
  - i. On the basis of truth taught
  - ii. On the basis of miracles performed

D) APPLICATION:

- a. **Are you a rejecter?** Why? Not even listening?  
Perhaps even mad at what I’ve said?
- b. **Are you an inquisitor?** What more do you need to know?

c. **Are you a sheep?** The sheep follow Christ’s voice. Repent of your sin and accept His life, death, and resurrection in your place by faith.

**The Benediction**

**Hebrews 13:20-21**, “20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”