

“Not the Shepherd’s Sheep”
John 10:22-39

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²⁵ Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me. ²⁶ But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one.”

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³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, “You are gods”’? ³⁵ If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), ³⁶ do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? ³⁷ If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸ but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father *is* in Me, and I in Him.” ³⁹ Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand. John 10:22–39 (NKJV)

The passage we will consider today has a similar THEME, Jesus is the Good Shepherd, to what we considered LAST week. But a different time ...

Now it is WINTER ... Now, is LATER in Jesus’ ministry ...

The window of opportunity to be saved was CLOSING, FAST!

I. *It is getting COLDER, time is PASSING, and still there is no change –*

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²³ And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. ²⁴ Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." John 10:22–24 (NKJV)

1. *The feast of Dedication –*

A. *Remembrance of the dedication of a new altar and the purging of the temple, by Judas Maccabaeus*

B. *What happened in the days of Antiochus Epiphanes and Judas Maccabaeus divided the TRUE from the FALSE –*

Antiochus Epiphanes turned God's law upside down and defiled His temple, especially the altar, as Antiochus offered a pig on the altar and set up the worship of false gods there.

People had to choose from the false or TRUE ...

2. *It was winter –*

*What happened from **John 7:37** right up to **John 10:21** was all about things that happened closer to the Feast of Tabernacles –*

² **Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. John 7:2 (NKJV)**

A. *What we see here is time PASSING QUICKLY!*

B. *Now it is winter ... truly, literally* ²³ **And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch.**

Some say Jesus' walking on Solomon's porch was because it was too cold to teach sitting still, so he was talking, while walking, preaching, and teaching while MOVING, because of the cold –

C. *Yet, it was also closer to the time of Christ's death on the Cross, point is time is moving, and Jesus is redeeming the time, preaching and teaching in the temple, using a holiday as an occasion for such –*

¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,
¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15–16
(NKJV)

3. *The Jews were worried about time too, as they use the phrase **How long...?** –*

²⁴ Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, “How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.” John 10:24
(NKJV)

The Greek here is wonderful ψυχῆν – psychen, from the root psycho ... usually in doubt or in suspense but could in our modern way of thinking about this Greek word could be translated, how long will you keep us CRAZY ...

Literally, How long will you keep us PSYCHO!!!!!!?????????

4. *How long, is important, because we do not have forever to be RIGHT with Jesus Christ ...*

“His name is time, and he is coming to an end, his name is time, where will you be my friend.”

II. *He told them, but they were not hearing -*

²⁵ Jesus answered them, “**I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me.** ²⁶ **But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.** ²⁷ **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.** John 10:25–27 (NKJV)

1. *They were asking Jesus, are YOU the Christ, tell us plainly? But Jesus had already TOLD THEM ...*

A. *Not just with words, but with WORKS - **The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me.***

B. *But they do not believe because they are NOT Christ's Sheep! Their non-belief, Jesus says, is not because they had not been told, but because they did not or will not HEAR –*

2. *Even for those who did not live during Christ's time on earth, this is the CASE, God / Christ makes Himself KNOWN –*

Psalm 19 (NKJV) To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. ² Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. ³ *There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.* ⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. Psalm 19:1-4 (NKJV)

3. *Jesus HAS THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE, HIS SHEEP "HEAR" HIM – Loud and clear*

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. John 10:27 (NKJV)

⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." John 6:68–69 (NKJV)

4. *It is DANGEROUS not to HEAR the Shepherd's Voice –*

²⁰ Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. ²¹ She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: ²² "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. ²³ Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. ²⁴ Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, ²⁵ Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, ²⁶

I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, ²⁷ When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. ²⁸ "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. ²⁹ Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, ³⁰ They would have none of

my counsel *And* despised my every rebuke. ³¹ Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, *And* be filled to the full with their own fancies. ³² For the turning away of the simple will slay them, *And* the complacency of fools will destroy them; ³³ But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, *And* will be secure, without fear of evil.” Proverbs 1:20–33 (NKJV) ²⁰

A. *Not they do not hear or follow because they are NOT sheep!*

B. *They lack sheep EARS!*

C. *They lack the sheep mind!*

III. He told them what they would be MISSING –

²⁷ **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.**
²⁸ **And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one.”** John 10:27–30 (NKJV)

1. *They would be missing “eternal life” - ²⁸ **And I give them eternal life...***

A. *Not just eternal in duration, there is a sense even those in Hell have eternal “duration” but eternal in quality, eternal in LIFE ...*

B. *I think we do not know LIFE, not fully, not unless we know God and even when we know God, we are only beginning to taste LIFE –*

⁸ **Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! ⁹ Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. ¹⁰ The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.** Psalm 34:8–10 (NKJV)

- **see that the LORD is good – a relationship with God, the LORD**
- **Blessed – truly and eternally happy**

- *No lacking of anything good in eternal life –*

11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)

2. Christ as Shepherd GUIDES, PROTECTS and PROVIDES even now –

... and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one.” John 10:27–30 (NKJV)

A Psalm of David. ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³ He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will 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 anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever. Psalm 23 (NKJV)

Having sheep EARS means they understand how great their need is for such guidance, provision & protection –

A. Sheep need guidance because they are STUPID, like sheep we tend to follow the crowd –

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me...

The sheep in the picture are some of 450 sheep that following one-another jumped off a cliff. The men are looking down upon a pile of sheep, mostly dead from the fall. Sadly, humans too often follow a leader or leaders in similar stupid things, nailing the Savior, Shepherd, Son-of-God Jesus to a cross was STUPID!



B. Sheep are vulnerable animals, they need protection –

... and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one."

³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, ³⁵ I went out after it and struck it, and delivered *the lamb* from its mouth; ..." 1 Samuel 17:34–35 (NKJV)

Even if we don't live near literal lions, we deal with a spiritual lion –'

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)

"His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal..." Martin Luther **Not even to mention cast sheep!**

A sheep can fall! End up on its back with its feet up in the air.

It cannot turn itself over!

If it continues like this it will die.

Only a shepherd can help such a sheep!

Only Jesus can save us!

C. The provision Christ gives is Himself / Eternal life – Psalm 34:8, John 6:55–58 (NKJV)

⁵⁵ For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever." John 6:55–58 (NKJV)

IV. They should have been kissing (Christ) instead they were HISSING at Him –

³¹ Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. ³² Jesus answered them, **“Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?”** ³³ The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, **“Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, “You are gods” ’? ³⁵ If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), ³⁶ do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? ³⁷ If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸ but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father *is* in Me, and I in Him.”** ³⁹ Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand. John 10:31–39 (NKJV)

1. They had a stoning mindset -

¹² **There is a way *that* seems right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death. Proverbs 14:12 & 16:25 (NKJV)**

2. They had a Jesus-is-just-a-man mindset –

... but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”

They did not have the LORD is my Shepherd mindset - “...the lot in life of any particular sheep depended on the type of man who owned it.” Phillip Keller

Would they have Christ as their Shepherd / King?

¹⁵ **But they cried out, “Away with *Him*, away with *Him*! Crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar!” John 19:15 (NKJV)**

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