

The Difference Between a Thief and a Shepherd

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John 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.

John 10:24-31 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

- I. So Jesus is basically saying to the Jews, as God speaking, "These are my sheep, not yours."
 - A. They looked at the people as their flock, not God's flock.
 - B. They decided who was in and who was out, based upon their own judgment and criteria.
 - C. The whole conflict with Jesus was over their possessiveness of the people who would follow God.
 1. The people were the object of their concern.
 2. They were afraid Jesus was going to take away their place and their authority, and that the people would follow Him instead of them.
 - D. They had designed their own way to heaven, which was a perversion of the God's way.
 - E. They had cleverly designed this way to heaven so that it kept the people subject to them and served them and made a comfortable and honorable place for them in the world.
 - F. They had made salvation dependent upon the strict keeping of ridiculous laws of their own making, which did not reflect the Divine order of creation or the moral law of God at all.
- II. So the conflict was between God and Satan over the people.
 - A. Jesus claimed that He is the door.

John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

- B. Jesus is the mediator between God and man and there is no other.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- C. He said clearly that a true shepherd of the sheep will lead the sheep to the door of the sheep, which is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Redeemer of mankind.
- D. This is speaking of the men who are shepherds of the sheep, or true men of God; God-sent, God-called, truth-preaching pastors and teachers.
- E. These Jews considered themselves the shepherds of God's people, but they were trying to get the sheep in some other way besides the door.
 - 1. Through their law-keeping and loyalty to the status-quo.
- F. Jesus called them out for it and likened them to thieves and robbers.
 - 1. So it is no wonder that they were angry with Him and took up stones to stone Him again in this chapter.
- G. John chapter 10 has been used as a comfort for God's people, but it is direct confrontation between God and the devil for souls of God's people.
- H. Jesus Christ is God's provision for man to be restored to fellowship with God, and there is no other way.
- I. But men under the influence of Satan and their own lusts never cease to try to find some other way, ANY other way, to have peace with God.
 - 1. The ONE and ONLY reason that men seek another way is so that they can keep what they have, what they love, and what they are, and not give it up.
- J. This is because the gate (door) is strait and the way narrow that leads to life through Christ.
- K. To come through Christ the Door you must leave your sin and your self and all that goes with it.
 - 1. You cannot bring your baggage with all your treasures through the Door that leads to union and fellowship with God.
 - 2. Jesus demands that we repent or we will perish.
 - 3. We must decrease and He must increase, until Christ is all in all and our existence is IN Him and not separate from Him while we live in this world and its lusts and pride.

III. Jesus is the good Shepherd.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

Hebrews 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

1 Peter 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

1 Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Matthew 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

- A. David said, "The LORD is my Shepherd." Psalm 23
- B. Jesus is preaching the same message of God that began in the Garden of Eden.
- C. Jesus is the promise of the Father, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

John 1:36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! (John)

- D. And He is putting all that in contrast to the religions of this world that have perverted God's truth in their attempts to cover and justify and maintain their own sin and pride and selfish ways.
- E. He is preaching this message in the midst of a pagan civilization that is all around Him and the truth is ringing loud and clear.
- F. The Spirit of God is upon Him and God the Father is with Him and the powers of the darkness of this world are being confronted in the sight of men by God himself.
- G. This is the kind of thing that was put into the understanding of the disciples, which later turned that pagan world upside down.
- H. Jesus made it very clear that anyone who tries to come to God any other way than by the way of Christ, which means following Him in death to the old man, and being resurrected to new life in Christ, is a thief and a robber, and will be dealt with by God as such.
- I. Their dishonesty was on display for all to see:

John 10:24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

John 10:25-26 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

John 10:30 I and my Father are one.

John 10:31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

- J. They always win most to their side because of the sinfulness of men.
- K. But they never win them all.

John 10:41-42 And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true. And many believed on him there.

- L. There is a harvest of souls to be reaped in this world in every generation, but someone must do what Jesus was doing here.
- M. We must speak up and we must make known the way to God is only through Jesus Christ; the Jesus of the Bible, and not the Jesus of the pagans of this world.
- N. That the way to God is a way of holiness and not worldliness.