

Theme: FALSE AND TRUE SHEPHERDS

Introduction: Jn. 10 took place in Jerusalem in the fall before Jesus' suffering and death. He now distinguishes false shepherds from true shepherds. For three years Jesus' had been battling with the false shepherds among the Jews. They are described in John 5-9. They denied that He was true God. They rejected His mission. They rejected His miracles. They scorned the blind man whom Jesus healed. Now follows our text.

I-THE FALSE SHEPHERDS

A-A description of these shepherds. In Palestine when shepherds brought their sheep in for the night they entered a door in a stone-wall enclosure and led the sheep in. Jesus compares Himself to this door. The false shepherds do not enter through this door. They enter elsewhere and so are really thieves and robbers. In vs. 5 Jesus calls this false shepherd a stranger, who is actually not acquainted with the sheep. In vs. 8 Jesus says that all before Him were robbers and thieves. In vs. 10 He says that the thief has come only to steal, kill and destroy. Thus Jesus describes false shepherds, false teachers. They deny the person, Word and work of Jesus Christ. These false shepherds actually know neither Jesus nor the sheep. They come to serve only themselves. They steal, kill and destroy. Jesus gives further description in vs. 12-13. The false shepherd is a hireling. When the hireling sees the wolf, the devil, coming, he flees because he cares not for the sheep.

B-How the sheep react to the false shepherds. The sheep are the true Christians. In vs. 5 Jesus says that the sheep flee from the false shepherd because they do not know him. Sheep recognize the voice of their own shepherd. They flee the voice of a stranger. Christians flee from the voice of false shepherds because they know that false shepherd will only abandon them to the wolf, the devil.

II-THE TRUE SHEPHERDS

A-A description of these shepherds. In vs. 2 Jesus tells us that the one who enters through the door is the shepherd of the sheep. In vs. 7 Jesus says: "Truly, truly I say to you that I am the door of the sheep." And in vs. 9 He says: "I am the door. Through Me if anyone enters he will be saved and will go in and out and will find pasture." True shepherds preach only Christ and Him crucified. True shepherds are servants, not masters. They simply want to teach and preach Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life. When the true shepherd sees the wolf, the devil, coming, they do not run. They would rather die than to abandon the sheep.

B-What the true shepherd gives the sheep. Vs. 9 gives us a good summary of what true shepherds give their sheep. They give them salvation, freedom from sin, death and the devil, and spiritual food. Jesus is the great Good Shepherd. He gives the sheep eternal life (vs. 28) and so these sheep will never perish. No one can seize these sheep out of Jesus' hand. He is true God, one with the Father.

C-How the sheep react to the true shepherd. Vs. 3 tells us that the true shepherd calls the sheep by name and they hear his voice. Vs. 4 tells us that when the true shepherd takes the sheep out he goes before them and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. Because of the voice of the true shepherd the sheep know Jesus, vs. 14. Because of the true shepherd Jesus says, vs. 27: "My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me and I give them eternal life and they will never perish nor will anyone take them from My hand."

Conclusion: In Jn. 10:1-10; 11-18, 27-30, Jesus uses two pictures: He is the Door. He is the good Shepherd. False Shepherds disregard Jesus the only Door and Jesus the only Shepherd. True Shepherds faithfully enter through Jesus the only Door and direct sheep to Jesus the only Shepherd.

Theme: THE INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP

Introduction: Jn. 10 is the great Shepherd chapter in the N.T. just as Ps. 23 is the great Shepherd chapter in the O.T. In Jn. 10 Jesus speaks of Himself in two pictures. First, in vss. 1-10 He calls Himself the Door of the sheep. Secondly, in vss. 11-18 and 27-30 He calls Himself the Shepherd of the sheep. He is both Door (entrance) and Shepherd (Savior and Provider).

I-THE RELATIONSHIP OF SHEPHERD TO SHEEP

- A-They enter the sheepfold only through Him. In Palestine each sheepfold or yard was a stone-walled enclosure which had only one opening. Likewise, the holy, Christian Church has only one opening. That opening is Jesus Christ. Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by Me." Jn. 14:6. Peter said at Acts 4:12: "Neither is there salvation in any other. For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Our text tells us that false teachers are robbers and thieves who claim there are other ways to be saved than through Jesus Christ. They are dangerous.
- B-The Shepherd richly blesses His sheep. He calls them by name. Vs. 3. He walks before them. Vs. 4. He saves them. Vs. 9. He died for them and paid for their sins. The sheep have freedom because they can go in and out as they please. That means that Christians have freedom from the guilt of sin, the power of death and the power of the devil. Vs. 9 tells us that this Shepherd gives His sheep pasture. In Ps. 23 David said that the Good Shepherd makes His sheep lie down in the pasture and leads them to quiet waters. Vs. 10 tells us that this Shepherd gives His sheep abundant life. He does that already now in this life. The Shepherd's voice has awakened the sheep from spiritual death. The sheep live because He lives. Vs. 11 tells us that the Shepherd gives His life for the sheep. Vs. 14 says that the Shepherd knows His sheep. Vs. 28 says that the Good Shepherd gives the sheep eternal life. He promises that they will never perish and that no one will ever seize the sheep from His hand.

II-THE RELATIONSHIP OF SHEEP TO SHEPHERD

- A-They hear His voice and follow Him. They do this because they can distinguish His voice from all others. There are many strange voices in the world. By the Word of God the sheep can distinguish false from true voices. They follow Him by seeking their salvation, their freedom and their spiritual food from Him. The world makes false promises about salvation and freedom but only the Good Shepherd can really satisfy the sheep. Vs. 14 says that the sheep know the Shepherd. They are well acquainted with Him and trust Him.
- B-They have eternal life and know that they will never perish. They know that no one can take them out of the hand of the Good Shepherd. No other relationship known to man is as secure as that of the sheep to their Shepherd. It is by faith and by faith alone.
- C-They can identify and avoid the false shepherds. The false shepherds are described in vss. 1-10, 11-16 and alluded to in vss. 27-30. False shepherds are selfish and do not love. False shepherds lead the sheep to the wolf, not to green pastures. False shepherds do not offer forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

Conclusion: The picture of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and the Door to the sheep-pen is one of the most beautiful pictures in both the O.T. and the N.T. It is found in the Pss., the Prophets, the Gospels and the Epistles. It is the Gospel. We are nearing the end of the Festival half of the church-year. In this season we have heard again and again what the Good Shepherd has done and is still doing for us.

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