

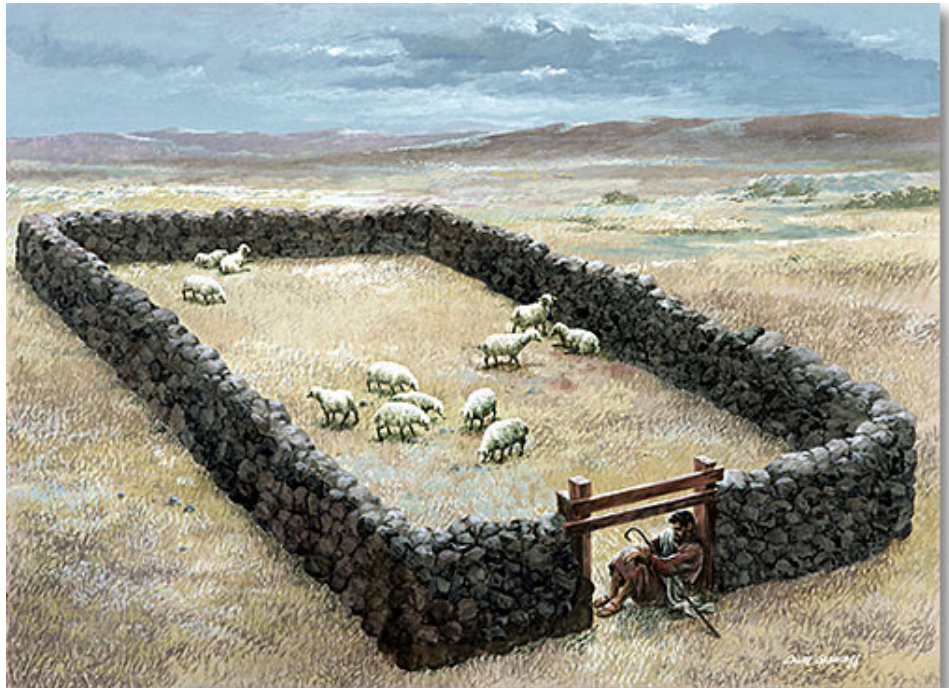
JOHN

Chapter 10

Note from Kathy

In John 10 we see many references to sheep and their shepherd. Do you know much about sheep? Sheep must be taken care of—they seldom fare well on their own. Sheep are fearful and timid, and yet, they are stubborn and often make choices that lead them into trouble. They are ruled by their appetite for things that look good but ultimately prove harmful. When thirsty they will satisfy themselves with the filthiest water if not led by the shepherd. They are prone to disease and pests but can do nothing to remedy their own situation. Sheep are basically defenseless creatures that live in grave danger from their enemies most of the time. A good shepherd is vital. Does any of this sound familiar? Does it make you smile to think how like these precious creatures we really are? In Philip Keller's book "A Shepherd Looks at Psalms 23," he reminds the reader that "despite these adverse characteristics Christ chooses us, buys us, calls us by name, makes us His own and delights in caring for us."

The Good Shepherd and His Sheep



At night sheep were often gathered into a sheep pen to protect them from thieves, weather or wild animals. The sheep pens were caves, sheds or open areas surrounded by walls made of stones or branches. The shepherd often slept across the doorway of the pen to protect the sheep. -Life Application Bible notes on John 10:1.

Observation

1. Jesus continues to teach those near him that day. Many would have understood what he was saying because many in the crowd would have been shepherds. Jesus mentions those who enter the sheep pen by climbing over the wall. Who did Jesus say these men were?
2. Jesus said the one who enters by the gate is _____

3. What did the owner of the sheep do to get the sheep's attention? When the shepherd chose to move his sheep to another pasture what did he do?
4. Jesus used the example of a shepherd and his sheep to illustrate his care for those who were his followers. Once again we find the "I am" statement made by Jesus. Fill in the chart below.

Scripture	"I Am"
John 6:35,41,48,51	
John 8:12	
John 10:7,9	
John 10:11,14	

John 10:9

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture."

5. What promises are followers of Jesus given in John 10:9?

- a.
- b.
- c.

6. Jesus contrasts the shepherd's purpose with the thief's purpose in John 10:10.

The thief comes to _____

Jesus came so _____

7. Jesus refers to himself as the good shepherd. Write down any facts you learn about our good shepherd in verses 11-17.

- a.
- b.
- d.
- e.

John 10:17-18

"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

8. Jesus' statement in verses 17-18 is the root of all his power. What two actions did Jesus say proved his authority?

9. What was the response of the Jews listening that day?

Ephesians 2:11-12

"Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" which is done in the body by human hands—¹²remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world."

10. In verses 22-30 Jesus once again speaks very clearly about his authority and explains to them why they cannot see it. What had they witnessed that showed Jesus' power and authority? These men could not see the truth of Jesus' words even though he had very clearly stated their problem. What was it?
11. Who are the "other sheep" Jesus spoke about in John 10:16? Read Ephesians 2:11-12 in connection with this verse.
12. Many people walk away when they disagree with another person. But not these opponents of Jesus. What did they begin to do in verse 31 that showed their passionate hatred for him?
13. Jesus knew their intentions. He asked the men what action he had done that deserved the death penalty. They could not argue with his actions. What did they take offense at?
14. Jesus told the men listening, "Do not believe me unless _____." If only God can do these things, then is John 10:30 true or false? _____
15. Again, in John 10:39 we see these men are blinded by their rage. What do they attempt?
16. Jesus goes back across the Jordan River to a place where John had earlier baptized. Who came to Jesus there? What was the result?

Application

1. We have seen Jesus being confronted by the Pharisees in almost every chapter of John's gospel. Jesus has tried repeatedly to lead them to the truth, and yet they refuse to see it. How long do you hang in there with people who seem to have little or no interest in finding truth?
2. In what way has your relationship with Jesus affected others around you?

John 1:1-4

"In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind."

John 10:9-10

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:40-42

"Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. Here he stayed ⁴¹and many people came to him. They said, 'Though John never performed a miraculous sign, all that John said about this man was true. ⁴²And in that place many believed in Jesus.'"

3. Jesus refers to himself as the gate in verse 9. According to Jesus' words in John 1:1-4 and John 10:9-10, is there any other way to receive salvation?
4. Have you experienced the freedom and rest that can be found in Christ? If so, find someone to share your personal testimony with this week and then share the results with your small group.
5. In John 10:11-30 Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd. He said, "I know my sheep and my sheep know me." He also said, "My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me." What are some ways a follower of Jesus will know if it is His voice they are hearing?
6. What does it mean to you to hear his voice? Describe a time when you experienced the leading of God in your life? How did his leading make a difference?
7. Many people are confused by Jesus, but what cannot be disputed are his actions. Do you see this type of confusion today? As believers what can we do to help others come to know Jesus?
8. In verses 40-42 Jesus leaves Jerusalem and crosses over the Jordan River. Even though many were against him we still see crowds of people gather to hear Jesus preach. There will always be those who will have nothing to do with the truth about Jesus. How do you handle it when you are rejected because you follow Jesus?
9. Fill in the below chart with words to describe each of these people.

Pharisees	Jesus	Jews

Psalm 23

"The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, 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 overflows. ⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

10. Jesus emphasizes the importance of the shepherd leading the sheep. How are you leading those under your care?

Are you driving them or leading them?

There is only one place to be positioned if you're leading. Where is that position?

What choices are you making to ensure that those God has placed under your care are being led closer to Him each day?

11. What are you doing to lean in to your good shepherd in order to hear his voice?

12. What truths will you take away from this chapter?

13. Read Psalm 23, and write a prayer to God.