

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 14TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

### SHEEP (JOHN 10:1-6)

#### THE PEN

Jesus begins talking about a sheep pen, a gate, a thief, and a shepherd, but the religious leaders didn't understand.

- In other places in the New Testament, believers are called "sheep." The sheep in this passage are inside the pen, a sheepfold. Here, they represent the nation of Israel.

#### LISTENING

Jesus asserts that He is where He was supposed to be because God had "opened the gate" so He could call His sheep out of the fold and into the flock.

- **Some had been rejected by religion, but they heard Jesus call them by name and followed Him. The leaders simply wouldn't listen.**

### SHEPHERD (JOHN 10:7-21)

#### THE GATE

Jesus changes the metaphor here and calls Himself the gate. He had already established that He had the authority to enter the gate that should have protected the sheep. Now, He would BE the gate that protected the flock.

- **The only way to enter the flock of God is through Jesus. Once there, the Good Shepherd protects us.**

#### THE SACRIFICE

In chapter 9, we see a man expelled, by the religious leaders, from the local synagogue for telling the truth. Here, we see Jesus (THE TRUTH) reveal that He will lay down His life for His sheep.

- **The abundant life that Jesus offers came at the highest price: He DID lay down His life for us.**

#### THE WARNING

There have been and still are false shepherds who teach for their own advancement.

- **Know your teachers. The best way to avoid being led astray is to know Jesus and His Word better than them. Trust the ones God has placed in your life, but always follow Jesus first.**

#### THE PLAN

Jesus shares that He will lay down His life, and other sheep will join His flock. For a moment, it looks like this flock will be shepherdless.

- **He shares a powerful truth: He would GIVE His life to protect His sheep from sin, judgment, and death. Then He would take it up again to shepherd.**

### AUTHENTIC (JOHN 10:22-30)

#### SURROUNDED

This is the last time Jesus will be in Jerusalem until He returns for Passover. This is the last time they will corner Him, and He walks away. Next time, they will surround Him in a Garden and take Him away to get their "justice."

- **They have one trap left: "Are you the Messiah?"**

#### REAL SHEEP

Jesus had been telling them for over two years, but they wouldn't believe because they were not "of" His sheep.

- **Christ followers believe, hear His voice, have the gift of eternal life, and will never perish. The focus is on Christ's relationship with His sheep and His ability to shepherd.**

### PROOF (JOHN 10:31-42)

#### WORKS

Jesus has just said that He and the Father are one. So, they picked up some rocks. Jesus responds by reminding them of all He had done in the name of the Father.

- **Every action, every word, and every conversation was spotless, and they still wouldn't believe.**

#### WORD

With stones in hand, they accuse Him of blasphemy. Jesus quotes Psalm 82 and disarms them with their own weapon: the law.

- **They made the error of believing a man was making himself God. But Jesus is God, making Himself a man. These men continue to ignore the testimony and character of Jesus.**

#### LISTEN

- Jesus calls His sheep by name.
- **Many will hear of the life of Christ, the work of Christ, and His ability to change lives.**
- **Hearing is not the same as listening. Listen to who Christ is and what He has done, but most of all, listen to Him.**

#### IDENTIFY

- Culture and religion are unfaithful guides.
- **Identifying impure motives, self-indulgence, deception, and destructive teaching can be overwhelming.**
- **There is no substitute for spending time with God in prayer and studying His Word. That is where we protect unity, not by following blindly.**

#### FOLLOW

- Jesus invites us into His flock.
- **As we follow Him, we enjoy His presence.**
- **Following Jesus and abundant life doesn't mean staying inside this pen. He leads us into His world to share His message, and it is messy out there.**
- **It may be time to drop the stones and follow the one calling your name.**