

I. The Gate - John 10:7-10

- Rea 1. "Again" - or the next thing Jesus said was this
-I am the gate for the sheep (**verse 7**)
2. Sheep being kept in folds had a "gate" - or other enclosed areas
-common for the shepherd to sleep laying across the entrance way
3. In **verse 8** Jesus contrasts Himself with the others who've come before
-thieves and robbers - they are characterized
- Rea -false prophets and "hirelings" are New Testament words
4. The sheep did not listen
- Rea -because the sheep know the difference??
5. I am the gate (**verse 9**)
-at John 14:6 - Jesus is the "way" and no man comes to the father but by Him
-entering through the gate they will be "saved"
-they will then go in and out and find pasture
- Rea 6. Two things in **verse 10**:
A. Have life - get saved
B. Have it abundantly - lifestyle
7. A contrast between the aforementioned "thief" and the good shepherd
8. The intent of the thief is to steal
-the intent of the shepherd is to give life
9. Satan's intent is to
-steal
-kill
-destroy
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Discuss "leadership" in the terms and context of this passage
2. Discuss "bad" leadership vs "good" leadership
3. Jesus told Peter "feed my sheep" - the duty of ministers is to take care of the sheep

II. The True Shepherd - John 10:11-14

1. The good shepherd lays down his life (**verse 11**)
- Rea -that statement defines what is a "good" shepherd
- Rea -count the number of times in this passage that "lays down his life" is used
-He is "the" good shepherd - He is unique
2. Lays down His life for the sheep
-when predators attacked the shepherd either stood his ground or he fled - and sometimes died
3. The hired hand (**verse 12**)
A. He runs away (**verse 13**)
B. He is not the shepherd
C. "Hired hand" is the Pharisees or other religious leaders
D. Pastors/ teachers who do not "lay down their life" leave the folk vulnerable to attack
E. Why? - he cares nothing for the sheep

4. Once again “I am the good shepherd” (**verse 14**)
 - the good shepherd has a personal relationship with the sheep
 - they are “his”
 - he “knows” them

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Let me recommend a book - A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23 - Philip Keller
2. He knows us by “name”
 - common for herders to “name” their sheep
 - today’s farmers do NOT name their hogs (for instance) because they are going to be slaughtered and do not want to “know” them too closely
3. A good pastor knows his flock - they are people, not just “church members”

III. The Securing Shepherd - John 10:25-30

1. The works testify about me (**verse 25**)
 - though they had seen works they still did not believe
- Rea -there are many who just don’t want to believe
2. You do not believe because you are not sheep (**verse 26**)
 - in light of the fact that they were not His sheep
3. My sheep listen - if you truly are my sheep you will listen (**verse 27**) - and follow
- Rea 4. Verse 27 - they know me and I know them - a relationship - very personal
5. I give them eternal life (**verse 28**)
 - they will never perish
- Rea -that last statement clarifies “never perish”
- Rea -the good shepherd will not allow any wolf or lion to “snatch them” out of His hand
6. He then brings God (the Father) into this conversation (**verse 29**)
 - He is greater than all
- Rea 7. Snatch them out of my hand (verse 28)
 - Snatch them out of my father’s hand (verse 29)
 - Once you’re saved you are held in the hand of the father - forever - Satan is not able to “snatch” us
- Rea -note the analogy - we are in His “hand” - He’s got the whole world in His hand but we are special persons in His hand
8. I and the father are one
 - intent
 - the fundamental nature of Jesus and the Father - they are one
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Leaders out to “know” their class, church, group -that will make you like Jesus
 2. Discuss roles - the role of the sheep and the role of the good shepherd
 - the character of the hireling, and the wolf, etc