



Calvary of Albuquerque

The Good Shepherd (and a bunch of happy sheep!) - John 10:1-10

From the Series, Believe:879

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

This is one of the most beloved passages to be found anywhere in Scripture. But it's not a stand-alone passage: The healing of the blind man in chapter 9 was more than a miracle. It was part of the process of Jesus forming His flock. The leadership had cast the healed man out of the synagogue. Jesus found him, accepted him, saved him, and placed him in His own fold.

OUTLINE

I. The Shepherd Gathers His Flock

- A. He Comes the Right Way (vv. 1-3a)
- B. He Calls the Right Way (v. 3b)
- C. He Conducts the Right Way (vv. 3c-6)

II. The Shepherd Guides His Flock

- A. He is the Door to Salvation (vv. 7-9)
- B. He is the Door to Provision (v. 9b)
- C. He is the Door to Satisfaction (vv. 9c-10)



Things for Sheep to Chew On:

1. What's the best thing about being a sheep in Jesus' sheep-pen? Make a list of the things God has provided for you: salvation, shelter, food, clothes, friends, family, employment, opportunities to serve, your church, your gifts and talents. Keep this list with you this week and add to it as you think of more. Then put it somewhere handy and refer to it when you're prone to worry about God's provision for your future.
2. How can you tell when it's Jesus calling you or someone else?

DETAILED NOTES

Sheep are docile; they follow one another. They are not known for their strength. The Bible uses sheep as an analogy for human beings. Thousands of years ago, everyone understood the analogy; they were a part of the culture. Job owned 14,000 sheep; Solomon sacrificed 120,000 on one occasion; Psalm 100:3 refers to God's children as the sheep of His pasture. Isaiah 53:6 says "All we like sheep have gone astray;" alluding to the fact that sheep are prone to wander.

Phillip Keller writes "Sheep do not 'just take care of themselves' as some might suppose. They require, more than any other class of livestock, endless attention and meticulous care. It is no accident that God has chosen to call us sheep. The behavior of sheep and human beings is similar in many ways[...]. Our mass mind (or mob instincts), our fears and timidity, our stubbornness and stupidity, our perverse habits are all parallels of profound importance." The quality of life for the sheep depends on the shepherd who takes care of it.

This text is divided into two sections: the village scene (vv. 1-6) and the countryside scene (vv. 7-10).

I. The Shepherd Gathers His Flock

Village sheepfold was a communal corral, a common enclosure for all the sheep. The shepherd would line up his sheep, put the rod down between sheep to inspect sheep for injury and parasites. In the morning the gatekeeper would let the shepherds in to take their sheep. This sheepfold does not represent heaven (thieves and robbers climbing in), not salvation or the church (flock led out). The sheepfold represents Judaism which kept them safe until the Messiah came. (See John 10:16-"And other sheep I have which are not of this fold;" (Gentiles). Jesus is the Good Shepherd (v. 11).

- A. He Comes the Right Way (vv. 1-3a)
 1. Not a thief who climbs over the locked guarded gate (Pharisees)
 - a. Hostile toward the sheep and the owner
 - b. Long line of false prophets

- c. True prophets prophesy against the false prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel)
 - Jeremiah 23:1-2; Ezekiel 34:1-2
 - 2. Jesus doesn't sneak in
 - a. Came from Heaven
 - b. Fulfills over 300 prophecies-Galatians 4:4
 - B. He Calls the Right Way (v. 3b)
 - 1. No branding or external marking
 - 2. Call sheep with a distinct pitch, tone and inflection the sheep understand
 - 3. Right speech, words, voice
 - 4. Many in
 - C. He Conducts the Right Way (vv. 3c-6)
 - 1. He leads them out
 - a. Western style - dogs drive sheep
 - b. Eastern style - shepherd leads-Psalm 23:2
 - 2. Jesus explain what happened to the man born blind now healed; he was kicked out of Judaism
 - a. Judaism had fulfilled its function of keeping God's people safe and separate from the world
 - b. Jesus was doing a new work-Matthew 9:17
 - 3. Learn to trust the leading of our shepherd
- II. The Shepherd Guides His Flock
- The Shepherd is the door. The countryside sheepfold did not have a gate, but the shepherd himself would lay in the opening. (George Adam Smith)
- A. He is the Door to Salvation (vv. 7-9)
 - 1. One door; narrow, exclusiveness of Christ
 - 2. Came to be the Savior of mankind
 - B. He is the Door to Provision (v. 9b)
 - 1. In and out speaks of contentment and provision
 - a. In the sheepfold at night for safety
 - b. Out in the morning for pasture
 - 2. Jesus nourishes us
 - 3. Secret to happy sheep: safety proportional to proximity
 - C. He is the Door to Satisfaction (vv. 9c-10)
 - 1. Thief comes to steal, kill and destroy
 - 2. Jesus gives us abundant life
 - 3. Our victory is based on the love of the Shepherd who laid His life down for the sheep

Figures Referenced: Tommy Walker; George Adam Smith;

Publications Referenced: *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23* by Phillip Keller

Cross References: Psalm 23:2; Psalm 100:3; Isaiah 53:6; Jeremiah 23:1-2; Ezekiel 34:1-2; Matthew 9:17; John 10:16; Galatians 4:4