

Gate *and* Shepherd

John 10:1-21

Main Idea: Jesus uses a first-century familiar theme (shepherding) to invite us into a deeper understanding of Him personally.

1. Jesus is the Christ (Messiah, Anointed one). (vv. 1-5, 17-18)
2. Jesus calls us each to know Him and be known by Him. (vv. 3-4, 15-16)
3. Jesus is both our security and our provision. (vv. 7-9)
4. Jesus cares for us sacrificially, not exploitatively. (vv. 10-11)
5. Jesus cares for us as an owner, not a mercenary. (vv. 11-15)
6. Jesus' love for us is tied to the love between Him and the Father. (vv. 17-18)

Bonus: The truth of Jesus' claims about himself can be validated by the exercise of his power.

Digging Deeper

Self-Reflection

Do you tend to think of Jesus as someone who mostly spoke and acted 2000 years ago, or as someone present and active in your personal life today?

- How does this affect the way you talk about Jesus?
- How does it affect the way you pray?

Does your study of Scripture seem to gravitate towards a search for more information, or a pursuit of intimacy with God?

Consider John 10:1-21

Jesus, who God anointed as *The Good Shepherd*, has also anointed “under-shepherds” to equip church members to carry out the work of ministry. (Eph. 4:11-12) Sometimes we either A) treat pastors as if we expect them to be Jesus himself, or B) treat them as if it is their job to *do* all the work of ministry

rather than equip others to do so. How might refocusing on Jesus as *The Good Shepherd* remedy those pitfalls?

Would you say that Jesus has *called you by name*, or do you sometimes feel like you signed a membership roster for Christianity and are more or less unknown by Jesus? How might you seek greater intimacy with Christ?

Are you able to rest, free from worry and anxiety, knowing that Jesus is your gate? (Where you “come in” for security and “go out” for provision) If not, what *other* things in this life are you pursuing, expecting them to provide you with security and abundance?

Jesus’ sacrificial love for us is inextricably linked to his relationship with God the Father. How should this make you feel about the importance of your relationship with Him?

Which of the many analogies that Jesus gave of himself in John 10 do you find most challenging to your gut-level perception of who Jesus is?

Do

Many famous “Christian” authors, teachers, and preachers throughout history and even today are exploitative thieves rather than sacrificial servants. While no one is perfect, it is vitally important that we test everything we are taught against the character of God as described in Scripture, no matter how famous the speaker is. Take some time to carefully examine the famous authors and preachers you follow, and flee from the ones who don’t sound like Jesus.

Choose one day this week to spend some extended time in prayer. Include some time of silence, when you ask God to speak to you personally by his Holy Spirit and just *listen for his voice*.

Extra Reading

Ezekiel 34

- How does this prophecy point to Jesus as described in John 10?

Numbers 27:12-23

- How does this encounter prefigure Jesus as described in John 10?
- *Note that the Hebrew name “Joshua” was translated into Greek using the name “Jesus”, they are basically equivalent in meaning*