



Introduction:

- The image of the Shepherd is one of the most universal images in Scripture.
- Jesus deliberately chose an image that spoke to ordinary people.
- Sheep always need the Shepherd.
- John 10 portrays Jesus as the Good Shepherd and the door to salvation, emphasizing His sacrificial love, guidance, and the intimate relationship He has with His followers.

Shepherd and his sheep in the Bible

- Psalm 23:1-4
- We are like sheep gone astray (Isaiah 53:6)
- Spiritually, we are all lost and defenseless.

Outline – Chapter 10: Enter Jesus, the Good Shepherd

- I am the Door (1-10)
- I am the good Shepherd (11-21)
- I am the Son of God (22-42)

Beware of wall climbers

- As the religious leaders, the Pharisees were supposed to shepherd God's people
- Although sheep appear to trail mindlessly behind the shepherd, people-sheep are different. They follow a shepherd deliberately
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Trailing behind the Shepherd

- Jesus warns against leaders who use people rather than serve them.
- Definition of a 'Pastor'?
- I am the door; I am the door of the sheep (10:7)
- As the gate/door, Jesus is the only way to God (9-10) ' Anyone who enters by me will be saved.'

I am the good Shepherd

- I am the good shepherd (10:11); Psalm 23 (God as Shepherd)
 - Psalm 74:1 (Israel as sheep)
 - Isaiah 40:11 (The Messiah as shepherd);
 - Isaiah 53:6 (People like sheep gone astray)
 - Ezekiel 34 (False and true shepherds contrasted).
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- The big question: Who are you following?
 - People outside Judaism will become part of the flock

A brilliant defense

- Jesus pulled out Psalm 82, 'Is it not written ... you are gods?'
- What was Jesus' argument in defense of his claim to be Divine?
- The Climax - One with God 'I and the Father are one.' (John 10:30)

Reflection

- ❖ "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me."
- ❖ Each chapter of John answers a deeper human need.
- ❖ And the center of every chapter remains the same Person.

Questions

1. What qualities of the Good Shepherd encourage you most?
2. Jesus says that the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (verses 11, 15, 17-18). How does His sacrifice make you feel about yourself?
3. How do people respond today to Jesus' offer to be their shepherd?
4. How will the promise Jesus makes help you when you struggle?
5. Who would Jesus call thieves today? Why?
6. How was Jesus different from the religious leaders of His day?