**Jesus, the Loving Shepherd**

*John 10*

**Introduction**

1. In **John 10**, Jesus uses the familiar relationship between a shepherd and his sheep as an illustration of His relationship with all who are His disciples.
   1. This context of Jesus’ teaching is more than a simple teaching directed toward disciples.
   2. Chapter 9 lends the strong likelihood that Jesus’ teaching in chapter 10 was directed toward the Pharisees/Jewish rulers to expose their corruption, and spiritual blindness.
2. **Chapter 9** – Jesus heals a blind man, and the Pharisees cast him out of the temple.
   1. **9:1-5** – Jesus’ desire to work the works of God – miracles.
   2. **9:6-12** – Jesus makes a blind man see, and others find out.
   3. **9:13-16** – The man is taken to the Pharisees, and there is a division concerning the one who healed him – healing done on Sabbath. (Accusation of sin in breaking Sabbath)
   4. **9:17-23** – Pharisees ask the blind man’s opinion concerning his healer – he is a prophet – but they disagreed and asked for the man’s parents to validate the miracle actually occurred (that he was indeed blind).
   5. **9:24-34** – They question him again, and the man persists in his telling of the truth, and the conclusions he reached concerning He who healed him. (He is from God, and such should be obvious because of the miracle.) They cast him out of the synagogue.
   6. **9:35-38** – Jesus makes Himself known to the man – that it was He who healed Him – and the man confesses His faith in Jesus as the Son of God.
   7. **9:39-41** – Jesus explains His reason for coming to earth, to make the blind see, and cause those who see to be blind – the Pharisees think it absurd that Jesus would suggest they are blind. (Their pride in assuming they know everything is what causes them to be blind to the truth about Jesus.)
3. Jesus, without any hesitation, transitions into the illustration of the shepherd and sheep to expose the blindness of the Pharisees, and that they do not love and care for the sheep they are to be leading spiritually.
4. Jesus, the Loving Shepherd – John 10
5. The Shepherd Illustration **(vv. 1-6)**
   1. Identification through entry – into the fold (**vv. 1-2)**
      1. **(v. 2)** – no definite article – “IS A SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP” (Literal shepherd scene – multiple flocks in a fold, and multiple shepherds – sheep don’t all belong to same shepherd.)
      2. This gives greater meaning to the fact that the sheep HEAR HIS VOICE, NOT THAT OF ANOTHER.
   2. Identification through the sheep’s knowledge – of the shepherd **(vv. 3-5)**
      1. HE knows them and THEY know him.
      2. **(v. 5)** – Only follow THEIR shepherd.
   3. Blindness of the Pharisees exposed **(v. 6)**
      1. Illustration – *paroimia*; from a compound of 3844 and perhaps a derivative of 3633; apparently a state alongside of supposition, i.e. (concretely) an adage; specially, an enigmatical or fictitious illustration: — parable, proverb. (STRONG)
      2. “in Johannine usage dark saying, figure of speech, in which especially lofty ideas are concealed” (Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich; 634).
      3. **Cf. John 16:25** – ***“figurative language”*** – in John 10, a metaphor.
         1. Like a parable, we must not get lost in the details, making every little thing to mean something specific.
         2. The general metaphor concerns Jesus as the shepherd, and the Jewish rulers/Pharisees as the thieves, robbers, and hirelings.
6. The Explanation of the Illustration **(vv. 7-21)**
   1. Jesus as the door **(vv. 7-10)**
      1. **(v. 8)** – thieves and robbers – Pharisees, want to take advantage of and hurt sheep.
         1. Don’t come through door – **(v. 1)**
         2. Don’t believe in Jesus – **John 5:39-40**
      2. **(vv. 9-10)** – the blessings offered by Jesus, in contrast to the unloving Pharisees.
   2. Jesus as the Shepherd **(vv. 11-18)**
      1. Significance of identifying as “the good shepherd:”
         1. God as the shepherd of His people – **Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15**
         2. God to appoint one shepherd, of the seed of David – **Ezekiel 34:23-24** – Known Messianic reference – **cf. Ezekiel 37:24**
         3. NOTE: the Jewish rulers were to be acting as shepherds, but much like those mentioned in Ezekiel, they were corrupt – **Ezekiel 34:1-6**
         4. IN CLAIMING TO BE “THE GOOD SHEPHERD” JESUS IS CLAIMING TO BE THE MESSIAH – THIS, THEY SHOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD.
      2. Contrast between the shepherd (JESUS) and the hireling (JEWISH RULERS) **(vv. 11-13):**
         1. **SHEPHERD** – sheep belong to Him, thus genuine care and love – expressed in laying down life.
         2. **HIRELING** – sheep don’t belong to him, thus in it for himself – expressed in fleeing when the sheep are in danger.
      3. The shepherd’s care expressed through knowledge of what the sheep need **(vv. 14-18):**
         1. **(vv. 14-15)** – know sheep (WHAT THEY NEED); know Father (WHAT HE REQUIRES – WHAT IS BEST FOR SHEEP, HIS WILL).
         2. **(vv. 17-18)** – Love emphasized in VOLUNTARY NATURE OF SACRIFICE – according to Father’s commandments.
   3. Blindness of the Pharisees exposed again (**vv. 19-21)**
      1. **(v. 20)** – Blind, don’t want to see.
      2. **(v. 21)** – Understand words are valid due to miracle performed.
7. Renewed Conflict **(vv. 22-39)**
   1. Blindness Persists **(vv. 22-30):**
      1. **(vv. 22-23)** – in December, about two months later – the exposure of their blindness by Jesus stuck with them.
      2. **(v. 24)** – Jesus had given them sufficient claims, with the supporting evidence.
         1. **Jewish tradition** – the messiah will make himself known in a publicly spectacular way. **(cf. John 7:3-5** – Jesus’ brothers)
         2. He told them all they needed to hear, but they didn’t believe.
      3. **(vv. 25-29)** – Not only told them, but had works of the Father supporting His claims.
         1. The reason they don’t believe is because they don’t hear His voice.
         2. They don’t follow His voice, and will not be given the life and protection He offers.
      4. **(v. 30)** – His claim of protection in the Father’s hand, and His own, put Himself on equal plain with God.
   2. Attempt to Stone Jesus Again **(cf. John 8:58-59) (vv. 31-39):**
      1. **(vv. 31-33)** – Their motion to stone Him, and their reason for offense.
      2. **(vv. 34-36)** – Jesus’ argument that exposes their broken relationship with the Law they claim to love:
         1. YOUR Law says God refers to those He has chosen as His representatives through the law (judges) are called gods.
         2. Is not the Messiah rightly called “the Son of God?”
         3. **Cf. Psalm 82** – In quoting this Psalm, Jesus not only makes a good argument for the title He claimed, but exposed their own corruption, and warned of destruction.
      3. **(vv. 37-39)** – If you do not believe the claim alone, believe such for the works that support it.
8. Jesus Ministers Beyond the Jordan **(vv. 40-42)** – those of lesser esteem among the Jewish people believed Jesus because of the agreement of His words with John the Baptist, and the works He performed. (Another contrast to the prideful Pharisees.)
9. Points of Application
10. The Conditions of Salvation and Protection
    1. **John 10:7, 9, 10b** – Entrance through the door.
       1. **Cf. John 14:6, 15, 21, 23** – way, truth, life; keep commandments; love of Father and Son, dwelling with obedient.
       2. **Cf. Ephesians 2:18-22** – through Him, i.e. foundation of apostles and prophets, Christ as cornerstone.
    2. **John 10:27-29** – Protection through hearing, knowing, following Jesus.
       1. **(vv. 28-29)** – perseverance of the saints? (“P” in T.U.L.I.P.?)
       2. NO – conditioned is the continual hearing, knowing, and following.
       3. **Cf. Hebrews 2:1-4** – neglecting the WORD of salvation
       4. **Cf. Hebrews 3:12-15** – apostasy through action of sin – MUST BE STEADFAST TO THE END.
11. The Love of Jesus Expressed in Giving What the Sheep Need According to God’s Word
    1. **John 10:11, 14, 15, 17, 18** – Jesus shows love by dying for sheep:
       1. **(v. 14)** – Knew that’s what sheep needed.
       2. **(v. 15, 17, 18)** – Knew that’s what Father required. (Also what sheep needed.)
    2. **Application** – this shows us that Jesus gives us what we need, but that what we need always pertains to the Father’s will, which is expressed in the word of God.
       1. **Cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17** – Scripture is sufficient for us, given by God for our good.
12. The Need for Humility of Faith in Salvation
    1. **John 9:39-41** – the pride of the Pharisees – “YOU MEAN WE, THE JEWISH LEADERS, ARE BLIND?”
       1. **John 10:6, 20, 24** – They did not know, because they did not want to know.
    2. In order to be saved we must become a fool to become wise – **1 Corinthians 3:18-20**
    3. God will resist the proud ALWAYS – **James 4:6-10**

**Conclusion**

1. Jesus’ love is manifested in the Shepherd illustration.
2. We are fortunate to have such a loving shepherd who was willing to give His life for us.
3. If we wish to have salvation, we must reject pride, and acknowledge our ignorance and shortcomings so we can come to know the truth, thus the Shepherd, and have the salvation and protection He so richly offers.