**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN**

**Jesus: The Good Shepherd, John 10:1-42**

Sunday, February 19, 2023

**WE Slide 1** Some say sheep are stupid, others say no they’re really smart. **Whatever they are Jesus in John 10 chooses to use the illustration of a shepherd/sheep to try and explain again who He is and how it is someone can KNOW they have eternal life.** Jesus didn’t choose sheep because they were stupid or smart, He chose them because they’ll only follow the voice of their shepherd. **John 10, pg. ­1072, starts off with Jesus reminding the Pharisees/the formerly blind man/the crowd/and us how shepherding worked in the 1st century. Slide 2** In the rest of John 10 He lays out this **BIBLICAL TRUTH: Only through Jesus do we have the guarantee of eternal life.** Meaning Jesus GIVES us eternal life, not something we work for, and He SECURES it.

**Before we spend time on this BIBLICAL TRUTH let’s have Jesus remind us of how shepherding worked back in the day. John 10:1-5 Slide 3-7** You have all these different sheep/different shepherds in the fields, WAY MORE than the picture, that are put into the fold for protection during the night.

**GOD**

1. **REMINDER OF HOW SHEPHERDING WORKS, John 10:1-5**
2. **All sheep in an area were held in a fold/corral overnight, protected by an under-shepherd or doorkeeper so the shepherds can get some rest.**
3. **The doorkeeper knows who’s a shepherd/who’s not.**
4. In the morning each shepherd calls their sheep, sheep recognize their voice, and follow.
5. Anyone else is a thief/stranger, even another shepherd the sheep won’t follow, **they’ll scatter**.

**John tells us that the RLs weren’t smelling what Jesus was cooking so Jesus continued with His point.** In Jesus’ illustration He is 2 parts of this shepherding process- He’s both the door through which the sheep must pass to get into His fold and He’s the shepherd who cares for the sheep in His fold. **Let’s see what Jesus is trying to get the RLs, the crowd, and us to understand from this. John 10:7-10 Slide 8-13** Jesus is the door through which we enter into eternal life/heaven. **We’re saved…**

1. **JESUS IS THE DOOR TO ETERNAL LIFE, John 10:6-10**
2. **Door to the Fold/Corral- Speaking of Eternal Life**
3. Saved from sin/hell, given entrance into heaven.
4. Experience Jesus’ protection/provision in this life.
5. Abundant life- way more than we ever deserved; we deserve an eternity in hell for our sin.
6. **Slide 14 Every Spiritual Leader before Him Was a Thief/Robber**
7. They were disobedient to God and led people away from Him.
8. They stole, killed, and destroyed- both physically by killing the prophets of God and in leading people away from God those people would spend eternity in hell.

**Slide 15 Fortunately, those who followed God didn’t listen to the disobedient leaders.** Now Israel has ANOTHER opportunity to make the same choice and NOT FOLLOW the disobedient RLs. **Will they hear/follow Jesus’ voice or follow the voices of the RLs? Jesus makes the case that they should listen to His voice by detailing the many ways He’s the GOOD SHEPHERD. John 10:11-18 Slide 16-23** The first thing that makes Jesus the GOOD SHEPHERD, why they need to listen to His voice, is…

1. **JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD, John 10:11-30**
2. **He’ll Die for His Sheep, v. 11**
3. “lay down My life”- He will sacrifice Himself on the cross to save us from God’s judgment on our sin.
4. This isn’t something a hired hand would do- doesn’t own the sheep, he’s got no skin in the game.

**Unlike a hired hand who doesn’t have a personal relationship with the sheep, the 2nd thing that makes Jesus a GOOD SHEPHERD is that He DOES have a personal relationship with His sheep.** Jesus says He KNOWS. **This “knowing” refers to a relational knowing built on His love for His sheep- God loves the Son, the Son loves God, same love with which He loves His sheep and the sheep love Him.**

1. **He Loves His Sheep, v. 14** He knows us, we know Him, as God knows Him and He knows God.
2. “know”- gnosko; relational knowledge; like the relationship Jesus has with God as the God/man.
3. There is a personal relationship established between Jesus and the people who follow Him.

**Then Jesus slips this shocking truth in- THERE ARE OTHER SHEEP that He’s bringing into the fold.** Remember He’s talking to Jewish people so the other sheep must be non-Jews who believe in Jesus.

1. **He Unites His Sheep, v.16** Gentile believers He’ll call once He establishes the church- includes us.

**He finishes this part up by telling us He’s the GOOD SHEPHERD because He obeys the Father.**

1. **He Obeys the Father, v. 17-18** The Father commanded Jesus to lay down His life and take it up again.
2. Jesus wants us to know that no one is forcing Him, He’s doing it willingly- of His own initiative- authority, free will- He wants to do this for God’s sake and our sake.
3. He’ll allow Himself to be killed for His people and He’ll raise Himself up from the dead 3 days later.
4. God loves Jesus for this, He loves that He willingly/freely sacrifices to accomplish God’s mission.

**This got the RLs into another argument with each other- some saying Jesus was demon-possessed or insane and others saying a possessed person can’t heal the blind.** Jesus must have taken the opportunity to leave as they argued because John 10:22 jumps ahead about 2 months. **Jesus is back in Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication (Nov/Dec, a couple of months after Festival of Booths John 7:1-9:21).**

1. Not an OT festival commanded by God, a commemoration of an uprising that happened 164 years earlier.
2. Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes conquered Israel, sacrificed a pig on the temple’s altar.
3. Judas Maccabeus led a successful revolt to retake Jerusalem and cleanse the temple.
4. Today that victory/cleansing of the temple is called Festival of Lights or Hanukkah.

**Let’s pick up the story in 10:22 where we find the FINAL thing that makes Jesus THE GOOD SHEPHERD.** **John 10:22-30** **Slide 24-31** Here’s the last reason why Jesus is the GOOD SHEPHERD- He GUARANTEES our ETERNAL LIFE- we’re never kicked out of His fold, stop being His sheep. **First He explains why the RLs are not His sheep.**

1. **He Guarantees Eternal Life for the Sheep, John 10:22-30**
2. “Your unbelief, RLs, shows that you aren’t My sheep.”- My “actions speak louder than words.”
3. Jesus knows which people are His sheep because they hear Jesus’ voice and obey Him.
4. Jesus GIVES His sheep eternal life, GUARANTEES it’ll never be taken away/SNATCHED AWAY.
5. No one can take them out of His hand. **He goes one further…**
6. No one can take them out of the Father’s hand!

**How can this be? This is SO GOOD!!**

1. It’s guaranteed because it is a work of God in our lives, not a work of us. **Once again the Apostle Paul explains how this is possible.** Look at Ephesians 1:5 **Slide 32 STAY ON SLIDE UNTIL I ASK TO GO TO THE NEXT SLIDE**
2. God chose to adopt us, Eph. 1:5, 1st century people understood that an adopted child could not be disowned, unadopted; it was the law. **Paul continues on… Slide 33-34**
3. God gives us the Holy Spirit as His guarantee of our future with Him,Eph. 1:13-14 God’s made a promise that once made His character demands He keep it otherwise He’s a liar.

**Then Paul nails this home… Slide 35-38**

1. It’s as if we’re already in heaven, Ephesians 2:4-7 In Greek when something is in the past tense like this it’s emphasizing the permanence of what’s being said.

**Jesus ends this by saying, “I and the Father are one.”** This took the RLs to another level of anger. **Look what happens. John 10:31-34 Slide 39-41** EXPLAIN “GODS” IN v. 34- Psalm 82:6 small “g”-god, referring to those who led Israel/spoke for God, in CONTEXT it’s, those who failed speak/lead properly and would experience the judgment of God. **Jesus knowing how seriously the RLs took the word “God” is saying, “You have no problem calling leaders like yourselves ‘gods’, but Me, who actually is God and shows it by doing the works of God, you can’t bring yourselves to call God.”** He’s pointing out their fake concern for Jesus saying He was God. **Clear as mud? Let’s continue reading. John 10:35-42 Slide 42-46**

**JESUS tries again to get them to understand that His works show that He is God- His works are the sign they keep asking for.** Sadly, they just won’t believe He is God and instead try to grab Him but He’s able to elude them and takes off north of Jerusalem to a more friendly area. **John says that many in that region believed in Jesus because everything that John the Baptist said about Jesus when he was alive was proven to be true.** NEXT WEEK **Slide 47** Jesus is told His good friend Lazarus was sick. **Instead of heading down to heal him Jesus stays where He’s at another 2 days during which time Lazarus dies. Why would Jesus do that?** You’ll have to COME BACK next week to find out or read ahead.

**For now, what can we TAKE AWAY from what Jesus has said? Slide 48 As we’ve said, John’s whole point for writing this Gospel is so we can know we have eternal life. Do you have eternal life?** Do you want eternal life?

**YOU TAKEAWAYS**

1. **Unbeliever-** Do you know you have eternal life? Jesus is the door to eternal life..
2. **ADMIT you’ve sinned and need God’s forgiveness.**
3. **BELIEVE Jesus took God’s judgment for you.**
4. **CONFESS to God you believe, ask for forgiveness.**

**PRAY**

**For those of us who have had that conversation with God, and He’s given us eternal life, live in the truth that you can never lose that salvation.** If you were truly sincere, truly meant it, then God the Holy Spirit is in your life giving you what you need to understand the Bible and live life God’s way and guaranteeing you’ll enter heaven when you die. **Slide 49**

1. **Believer- Are you following Him, living life as He showed us, so that He can fulfill His promise of providing and protecting you? Don’t stray off!**

**PODCAST: Jesus not only gives eternal life, He secures it for eternity. John 10:1-42, Ephesians 1:5, 13-14; 2:4-7**