

Jesus is the Good Shepherd

John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the **sheepfold**, but climbeth up some other way, the same is **a thief and a robber.** 2 But he that entereth in by the door is the **shepherd of the sheep.** 3 To him the **porter openeth**; and the **sheep hear his voice**: and he calleth his own **sheep by name**, and **leadeth them out.** 4 And when he **putteth forth his own sheep**, he goeth **before** them, and the sheep **follow him**: for they know his voice. 5 And **a stranger** will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they **know not the voice of strangers.** 6 This **parable** spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **I am the door of the sheep.** 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 9 **I am the door**: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. 10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to

destroy: **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.** **11 I am the good shepherd:** the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. **12** But he that is an **hireling**, and not the shepherd, **whose own the sheep are not**, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. **13** The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and **careth not for the sheep.** **14 I am the good shepherd**, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine. **15** As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and **I lay down my life for the sheep.** **16** And **other sheep** I have, which are **not of this fold**: them also I must bring, and **they shall hear my voice**; and there shall be **one fold, and one shepherd.** **17** Therefore doth my Father love me, because **I lay down my life**, that I might take it again. **18 No man taketh it from me**, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. **19** There was a

division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings.

20 And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? 21 Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?

- Definition of Terms

- Sheepfold or Fold was the place where the sheep were kept at night
- The fold was communal or meaning that several flocks would be kept there at night
- Porter was the doorkeeper or a hired under shepherd who would watch over the sheep during the night

1. Jesus is the good shepherd and came with full authority from God 2 **But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.**

- a. There were many over history that had tried to lead, use and abuse the nation of Israel. They had been false shepherds, teachers 1 **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the **sheepfold**, but climbeth up some other way, the same is **a thief and a robber.****

- b. Jesus came with full authority and goes through the door
- 3 To him the **porter openeth**; and the **sheep hear his voice**: and he calleth his own **sheep by name**, and **leadeth them out**. 4 And when he **putteth forth his own sheep**, he goeth **before** them, and the sheep **follow him**: for they know his voice.
- i. The porter knows the true shepherd
 - ii. The sheep know the true shepherd
 - iii. The true shepherd has no desire to abuse the sheep but goes before them
 - iv. The sheep follow the true shepherd
- c. Jesus had come to His own and though the nation rejects Him many will believe and follow
- d. The sheepfold here is the nation of Israel.
- e. Jesus was the promised shepherd from the Old Testament
- Ezekiel 34:23 And I will **set up one shepherd** over them, and he shall feed them, *even* my servant David; he **shall feed them**, and he **shall be their shepherd**.
- f. There have been too many false shepherds
- i. Pastors that transgressed against the Lord **Jeremiah 2:8**
The priests said not, *Where is the Lord?* and they that handle the law knew me not: **the pastors also**

transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after *things that* do not profit.

- ii. God has pastors in mind that do things like He wants them done [Jeremiah 3:15](#) And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall **feed you with knowledge and understanding**.
- iii. Pastors are scattering God's flock [Jeremiah 10:21](#) For the pastors are become **brutish**, And have **not sought the Lord**: Therefore they shall not prosper, And all their flocks shall be **scattered**.
- iv. Pastors that destroy [Jeremiah 23:1-2](#) Woe be unto the **pastors that destroy and scatter** the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord. [2](#) Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that **feed my people**; Ye have **scattered my flock**, and **driven them away**, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord.
- v. God was angry with the shepherds/pastors [Ezekiel 34:2-10](#) Son of man, prophesy against the **shepherds of Israel**, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; Woe *be* to

the shepherds of Israel that do **feed themselves!** should not the shepherds **feed the flocks?** **3** Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: *but* **ye feed not the flock.** **4** The diseased have ye not **strengthened**, neither have ye **healed** that which was sick, neither have ye **bound up** *that which was* broken, neither have ye **brought again** that which was driven away, neither have ye **sought** that which was lost; **but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.** **5** And they were **scattered**, because *there is* no shepherd: and they became **meat to all** the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. **6** My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek *after them.* **7** Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord; **8** As I live, saith the Lord God, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because *there was* no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, **but the shepherds fed**

themselves, and fed not my flock; 9 Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord; 10 Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, **I am against the shepherds;** and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; **neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more;** for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

- vi. If pastors and gifted people do not teach God's people the truth then they will be carried by every wind of doctrine **Ephesians 4:11-16** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, **pastors** and teachers; 12 For the **perfecting** of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the **edifying** of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the **unity of the faith**, and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That *we henceforth* **be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine,** by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in

love, may **grow up into him** in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: **16** From whom the **whole body fitly joined together** and compacted by that which **every joint supplieth**, according to the **effectual working** in the measure of every part, **maketh increase** of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

vii. The New Testament Pastor follows a similar pattern

I Peter 5:1-4 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: **2 Feed the flock** of God which is among you, **taking the oversight thereof**, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; **3 Neither as being lords** over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. **4** And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that *fadeth not away*.

1. What does it mean to feed the flock?

2. Spiritual food is the Word of God

Hebrews 5:12-14 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and

- are become such as have **need of milk**, and not of **strong meat**. 13 For every one that useth **milk** is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But **strong meat** belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
3. Pastors are to feed the flock **Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to **feed the church of God**, which he hath purchased with his own blood.
 4. The Word is more important than food **Job 23:12** Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary *food*.
 5. We must be careful because there are false prophets **Matthew 7:15** Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.
 6. Paul worried about what would happen to the church after his departure **Acts 20:29, 26-32** Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I *am* pure from the

blood of all *men*. 27 For I have not shunned to **declare unto you all the counsel of God**. 28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the **flock**, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **overseers**, to **feed the church** of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall **grievous wolves** enter in among you, **not sparing the flock**. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, **to draw away disciples** after them. 31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. 32 And now, brethren, I **commend you to God**, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

g. Characteristics of a Christlike Shepherd/Pastor

- i. He works at developing a relationship with his people 3
To him the **porter openeth**; and the **sheep hear his voice**: and he calleth his own **sheep by name**, and **leadeth them out**.

- ii. He comes with biblical and or divine authority
- iii. He sets the right example for his people **4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him:** for they know his voice.
- iv. He sacrifices for his people **11 I am the good shepherd:** the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. **12** But he that is an **hireling**, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. **13** The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

2. Characteristics of the Shepherd

- a. The shepherd, Jesus, has authority to come for the sheep. He comes through the door **2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.**
- b. The shepherd knows sheep and calls them by name **3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice:** and he calleth his **OWN sheep by name, and leadeth them out.**

- c. The good shepherd goes before His sheep **4** And when he **putteth forth his own sheep**, he goeth **before** them, and the sheep **follow him**: for they know his voice.
- d. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep **11 I am the good shepherd**: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. **15** As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. **17** Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. **18** No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.
- e. The good shepherd knows his sheep and is known of them **14 I am the good shepherd**, and know *my sheep*, and am known of mine.

3. Characteristics of the sheep

- a. The sheep know the shepherd's voice **3** To him the porter openeth; and the **sheep hear his voice**: and he calleth his own **sheep by name**, and **leadeth them out**.

- i. There is an intimacy between the shepherd and his sheep
 - ii. He knows their name and they recognize even when He talks to them individually
 - iii. They trust His leadership
 - iv. All of these form questions you should ask yourself about your relationship to the shepherd, Jesus
 - 1. How intimate is your relationship
 - 2. Do you recognize His voice? Do you listen to Him as you read the Scriptures and listen to the messages?
 - 3. Do you trust Him and what He is doing in your life?
 - 4. Can you trust Him when you do not understand what He is doing or going to do?
- b. The sheep follow the shepherd **4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.**
- i. How surrendered are you to His direction in your life?
 - ii. How often do you ask God for His leadership in your life, your giving, etc?
- c. The sheep will not follow a stranger **5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not**

the voice of strangers. 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

- i. Can you discern false leadership in your life?
- ii. Do you recognize when it is you, your self, or Satan that would put ideas in your head?