

Happy Is the Sheep Whom the Shepherd Knows

John 10:1-10 (Page 80-81 in the BPB)

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Setting

Chapter 10 is a continuation of the story of chapter 9.

9:34 “So they (the Pharisees) put him (the man born blind whom Jesus healed) out (of the Synagogue v. 22).

9:39-41 “**39**And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.” **40**Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” **41**Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

No new topic is introduced in chapter 10. The man born blind, whom Jesus healed, is mentioned in 10:21, (and again in 11:37).

Jesus takes a familiar topic, both in life and from the Scriptures, to illustrate the Jewish authorities' failure to do what they had been called to do, shepherd/care for God's people. On the other hand Jesus illustrates that He is the true Shepherd that ultimately cares for God's people.

Shepherd and Sheep Imagery in the Old & New Testaments

Psalm 23

Ezekiel 34; Jeremiah 23:1-7; Zechariah 13:7-9

Luke 15:3-7 (Matthew 18:12-14)

Hebrews 13:20-21

1 Peter 5:4

The Story of the Shepherd, the Sheep and the Thieves and Robbers

Beware of those who do not enter through the gate.

¹Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into **the fold of the sheep**, but climbs up some other way, **he is a thief and a robber**.

“the sheep fold”

10:16 “I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock *with* one shepherd.

The legitimate shepherd enters through the gate.

²But he who enters by the door is **the shepherd of the sheep**.

The shepherd knows his own sheep and his sheep follow him.

³To him [the shepherd] the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and **he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out**.

Sheep – Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 2:25

The doorkeeper – possible suggestions – The Father, the Holy Spirit, John the Baptist....

⁴When he puts forth/brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

In contrast to the shepherd the sheep flee from strangers.

⁵“A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.”

“Flee” – 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22

The Pharisees don't understand the meaning of the story.

⁶This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.

Figure of speech – John 16:25, 29; 2 Peter 2:22

They did not understand – (like Nicodemus John 3:9-12)

Mathew 13:10-17

Jesus expands the story to show the difference between the religious leaders and Himself.

⁷So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you,

I am the door of the sheep.

⁸“All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

Referring to the religious leaders

⁹“I am the door; if anyone enters through Me,

he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 14:6

Psalm 23

The motive of the thief is revealed.

¹⁰“The thief comes only to steal and kill [slaughter] and destroy;

The thief – religious leaders but ultimately as in John 8:38, 41, 44 they are doing the work of their father, the devil.

Jesus’ motive is revealed.

I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.

Life – (Ephesians 2:1-9)

Abundant – “have it to the full”, “more than one would normally expect or anticipate.”

Application

Jesus’ sheep know/recognize His voice, words (i.e. the Bible).

Jesus’ sheep follow/obey Him.

Jesus sheep need to discern truth from error and flee from false teachers.