

## **The True Shepherd (John 10:1-10)**

- As Westerners we are at a disadvantage when it comes our Lord's imagery here
- Sheep are helpless (they lack intelligence) and they are easily harassed
- They are given to listless wandering & are even known to wander into open fire
- They are absolutely defenseless & of all animals to care for they are the hardest
- They are a fitting emblem of human beings (Ps 100:3; Isa 53) "sheep gone astray"
- Ancient eastern model of shepherds was not to drive the sheep but to lead them
- A highly personal occupation: shepherd & his sheep intimately bound together

### **I. The Relationship of the Shepherd to the Sheep (10:1-6)**

- First of all the Shepherd's relationship to the sheep is one of familiarity (vv.1-3)
- Vs 3 "my sheep hear my voice & they listen to me": idea of familiarity (cf.14-15)
- Palestinian shepherds would name their sheep according to their characteristics
- Jesus knows us just as well as He knows the Father: intimate knowledge
- As the Father knows the Son who is one with Him A most amazing intimacy  
(v.14) **"I know my sheep ... just as - Father knows me and I know the Father"**
- We also know Him: "The sheep follow him, for they know His voice."
- Jesus adds vs 4 **"When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."**
- If you are one of the sheep, your relationship is the reason for your existence
- If we are believers, we have such a relationship & must appropriate its benefits
- Jesus used this figure of speech, but they didn't understand his sayings (6)

### **II. The Shepherd's Provision for His Sheep (7-10)**

- What does Jesus mean when he refers to Himself as the door or gate? (v.7)
- Jesus means this: I am the living door you must go through to enter into the fold
- Likewise in order to go out to pasture we must go through Him our living door
- I am your protector & provider. Going through me means you are saved & safe
- The saved go in and out to find pasture and Jesus says He gives them eternal life
- Christ provides abundant, "full life" for His sheep. What is that abundant life?
- The Good Shepherd leads us into green pastures – we are growing into eternity
- "Beside still water" our peace abounds for ever for we have peace with God
- Jesus said, my flesh is real food and my blood real drink that gives eternal life