

Morning Sermon July 29, 2018
"The Good Shepherd" John 10:10-15

I. *Jesus is the Good Shepherd in exact opposite contrast to the thief –*

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. (John 10:10 NKJ)

1. *Notice the thief's purposes, goals, as exact opposite of Christ's – "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.*

A. *These goals are satanic –*

"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. (John 8:44 NKJ)

Stealing, killing, destroying are the Devil's desires –

B. *Jesus does not expressly identify the Devil here but the actions / motives described, identify him –*

... the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8 NKJ)

C. *Yet, when he uses the word thief He is also hinting back at His own words in verse :1 –*

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. (John 10:1 NKJ)

Here Jesus is speaking about the false shepherds, current to His day, the Pharisees, whose destructive act was casting believers in Jesus as the Christ out of the synagogue.

D. *How they were like Israel's previous false shepherds –*

"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:1 NKJ)

2. *Jesus' goal for us is LIFE – I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. (John 10:10 NKJ)*

A. *Abundantly life is eternal life and this means a connection, a vital relationship with God –*

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches;²⁴ But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. (Jeremiah 9:23-24 NKJ)

B. *This abundant life is not found in the things of this world –*

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world.¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1 Jn. 2:15-17 NKJ)

C. *The devil would attempt to tempt us away from the best things, even tried to tempt Christ –*

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.⁹ And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, `You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" (Matthew 4:8-10 NKJ)

D. *Jesus says to this –*

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? (Mark 8:36 NKJ)

II. *Jesus is the Good Shepherd in extreme contrast with those He calls hirelings –*

"But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.¹³ "The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. (John 10:12-13 NKJ)

1. What is, and who are the hirelings? –

- A. They do not own the sheep
- B. They flee when the wolf comes
- C. They flee because they do not care

2. There is a sense, that even the best of us, those who are called to be under-shepherds of Christ, are by nature, in and of ourselves hirelings, example Peter –

A. Peter boasted a fierce willingness –

Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples. (Matthew 26:35 NKJ)

B. But the reality of Peter's commitment fell far short –

Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times. (John 13:38 NKJ)

Did Peter deny Jesus three times? We all know he did! He failed miserably even denying he even knew Christ –

Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!"⁷² A second time *the* rooster crowed. Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." And when he thought about it, he wept. (Mark 14:71-72 NKJ)

C. There is a sense both compared to Christ, and apart from his grace all ministers, even those truly called shepherds are hirelings, this is why Paul tells the elders, the shepherds in Ephesus, first to take heed to themselves –

"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (Acts 20:28 NKJ)

D. We who are the under-shepherds of Christ, compared to Christ, all fit in this "hireling" category except by God's grace and Christ's enabling –

- Judas as an apostle was in the hireling category but fell from it to the thief and robber category when he sold his Master Christ for thirty pieces of silver –

and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.¹⁶ So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him. (Matthew 26:15-16 NKJ)

- Peter went up from hireling to shepherd category by God's grace –

He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. (John 21:17 NKJ)

We need to take heed to ourselves which way we are going? And press on - Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I *do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14 NKJ)

III. Jesus is the Good Shepherd in contrast to all others –

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, "Indeed we *are* your bone and your flesh."² Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD said to you, You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel." (2 Samuel 5:1-2 NKJ)

1. David was the shepherd of Israel as king

2. He had been willing to fight and possibly die for the sheep –

But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,³⁵ I went out after it and struck it, and delivered *the* lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught *it* by its beard, and struck and killed it.³⁶ "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."³⁷ Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!" (1 Sam. 17:34-37 NKJ)

3. Yet David himself became a thief – 2 Samuel 12:1-12

4. David was a king, a politician, not a pastor, these are also shepherds – thieves ...hirelings

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