

Agape House of Worship
Wednesday Bible Study – May 20, 2026

Study Series: THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE: A Journey through the Gospel of John

Part 16: The Good Shepherd: Jesus as Shepherd, Voice & Security

Teacher: Pastor Kip Wright

John 10:1-21 New International Version

John 10:1-21 New International Version - The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

10 “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

- Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees
- The Shepherd enters by the gate, thieves and robbers climb in the pen other ways
- The gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, the sheep listen to his voice
- The Shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out
- The Shepherd goes ahead of the sheep, the sheep follow because they know his voice
- The Sheep do not follow strangers, they run away from voices they don’t recognize
- The Pharisees did not understand what was being said

Questions – Why is Jesus saying this to the Pharisees? Who is the good/true shepherd? Who are the sheep? Who is the thief/robber?

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

- Since the Pharisees didn’t understand, Jesus must repeat his key points
- Jesus says twice – “**I am the gate**”
- Who ever enters through Christ will be saved – John 14:6
- The sheep will find pasture through Christ – Psalm 23:2
- A thief’s only purpose is destruction – steal, kill and destroy
- Jesus purpose is to build-up – to give life, full and abundant life (read John 10:10 AMP)

Questions – Who are - all who have come before me? What does find pasture mean? How does the thief try to destroy us? How does Christ give us full/abundant life?

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

- Jesus calls himself the “**good shepherd**”
- Hired hands are not owners, they do not care for the sheep
- Christ defends his sheep against attack and is willing to die on behalf of, for the benefit of the sheep, in contrast to hired hands – Romans 5:6-8, John 3:16

Questions: Why does Jesus use the word good? What is the difference between owning and renting? What is the wolf's strategy?

¹⁴“**I am the good shepherd**; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

- Jesus says again – “**I am the good shepherd**”
- Jesus emphasizes relationship, He compares it to the relationship with the Father – John 10:30
- There will be other sheep in His flock – Galatians 3:28
- Jesus laid down His life for us, voluntary act of sacrifice

Questions: What other sheep is Jesus talking about? Why is it important to understand that no one took his life?

¹⁹The Jews who heard these words were again divided. ²⁰Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?”

²¹But others said, “These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

- The audience was divided in their response to Jesus
- Many said he was demon-possessed/raving mad and should not be heard – Matthew 12:24
- Others heard him and commented on his words and the miracle performed – John 9:32-33, John 5:36 AMP

Closing: This week's title -The Good Shepherd: Jesus as Shepherd, Voice & Security

Jesus shows himself as the Good Shepherd because he chose to sacrifice himself for the sheep. He is good because he gave us real life, an abundant life that we can only live in and through him (Gal. 2:20). As Christ's sheep, we are in relationship with him and we only respond to his unique voice. Because we are his children, he protects us from the enemy and all harm, our security and peace rests in him.

Galatians 2:20 New International Version

²⁰I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

