

CHAPTER

10

Chapter 10 contains the parable of the sheepfold, picturing Jesus as the Good Shepherd, and also as the Door of the Sheepfold. It concludes with another attempt by Jewish leaders to arrest Jesus.

Read verses 1 through 18. Jesus as the Door to the Sheepfold, Jesus as the Good Shepherd, and Jesus' teaching of His unity with the Father are found in this section.

Verse 1. Jesus began this parable by telling what the Good Shepherd is not. He is not the one who tries to break in or climb over the fence. That one comes for no good purpose but to rob or steal. Was Jesus calling the Pharisees thieves and robbers? I think not. The Prophets of old had warned against false prophets and undoubtedly there had been many besides those mentioned in the Old Testament. Jesus came openly proclaiming His message, and people could judge by His words and by His deeds whether or not He spoke the truth.

207. Jesus did not resort to secret and cunning ways, but _____
proclaimed His message.

Verses 2 and 3. In Australia and the USA, the sheep are pastured in large herds and driven, generally with the help of dogs. They are not led to pasture as are the smaller flocks of the Mid East. For their safety, they are brought into an enclosure at night which is generally open to the sky. This has a gate which the porter can secure from the inside. The porter knows the voice of the honest man, the Good Shepherd, and opens to him. The sheep also know his voice and will follow him, but they would not follow a stranger. Not only do the sheep know the shepherd, but the shepherd knows each individual sheep and calls each one by name. This is of great importance when we come to application of this parable.

208. The true shepherd know each _____ and the sheep know the
_____ voice.

Verses 4 and 5. These verses reinforce what was said previously. The sheep follow the true shepherd because they recognize his voice, but they would run from anyone whose voice was strange to them.

209. True or False? The sheep will flee from a stranger because they do not recognize his voice.

Verse 6. The writer (John) says that Jesus spoke this parable to the people, but they did not understand its meaning. There was no reason why they should not understand, only that they did not wish to understand. The Pharisees could not see themselves as "hirelings," who had no thought for the sheep, but that is what they were. They had no interest in the common man, except to lord it over them.

210. The people, and especially the Pharisees, did not _____
this parable because their hearts were hardened, and they did not wish to
_____.

Verses 7 through 9. In these verses, Jesus was still talking about sheep and the sheepfold, but He changed the figure. He is now the Door to the Sheepfold. "All that came before him," He says, "were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door, by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture." He is both our Savior and our security.

211. If we, by faith and obedience to Jesus' command, enter into His fold, we are _____ and we are _____.

Verse 10. Jesus contrasted His purpose to that of false teachers whom He called thieves and robbers. They come to steal and destroy. His purpose is to give all who come to Him a good life while on this earth and eternal life in the hereafter.

212. Jesus came to give us _____, both here and hereafter.

Verses 11 through 14. In these verses Jesus continued the comparison between the Good Shepherd and the hireling. The duties of a shepherd include leading the flock to good pasture and water, keeping the sheep from straying and getting lost, protecting them from wild animals, and bringing them home at nightfall for safekeeping in the sheepfold. The only difficult and dangerous part is fighting off predatory animals that attack the flock, and this is where the difference between the hireling and the Good Shepherd become evident. The hireling has no love or concern for the sheep. All he thinks about is his wages, so when danger threatens, he runs away. The Good Shepherd knows and loves each individual sheep and will protect without thinking of his own safety.

213. When the sheep are attacked, the _____ runs away, but the _____ protects them.

Verse 15. Jesus again affirmed that He is one with the Father. He knows the Father as the Father knows Him. No human being can say that. Then He made the important statement, "I lay down my life for the sheep." Jesus, of course, is the Good Shepherd, and He knew that He was going to "lay down" His life for the sheep. He knows me by name, and He laid down His life for me.

214. God is love, and Jesus and God are one. Because He _____
me, Jesus _____ His life for me.

Verse 16. "Other sheep I have". This refers to all people other than the Jews. The Jews were inclined to think of themselves as exclusively God's people. In that great meeting before God's throne in Heaven, there will be people from every race and tongue and nation. Hallelujah!

215. True or False? God has no favorites. He wishes all to be saved and to become one with Him.

Verses 17 and 18. Before God's son ever came as a tiny baby, the plan for the salvation of man was agreed upon in Heaven. God loves His Son because He was willing to be "obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." But Jesus made it very plain that He laid down His life willingly. The Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep."

216. The Good Shepherd lays down His life _____, and the Father loves Him for this.

Read verses 19 through 21. The people continued their discussion over Jesus and His teaching, and we will here consider what they were saying. Some said that either He is crazy or is possessed by demons. Others, who were more sensible, said, "These are not the words of one that hath a devil." Satan is the real destroyer, and His servants do destructive things. They do not help people. They have never restored the sight of a blind person.

217. It is characteristic of the work of demons that their work is _____, they never do things to help people.

Read verses 22 through 42. This section records the events which happened at the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem about the 20th of December. According to Bible historians, it commemorated the rededication of the temple after it had been desecrated by Antioch Epiphanes in the year B.C. 164. Strong national feelings were aroused at this time, and the Jewish opponents of Jesus thought it an opportune time to test Jesus as to His leadership aspirations. At the close of the arguments, they again sought to arrest Him.

Verses 22 through 24. Jesus was attending the Feast of the Dedication in Jerusalem and was walking in the portico of the temple called Solomon's Porch when the Jews surrounded Him and began questioning Him. They said in effect, "If you are the Christ (Messiah,) just come right out and say so. The wording seems to indicate they surrounded Him and intended to detain Him until He answered their question. These Jews looked for a Messiah who would be king over them and free them from Roman rule. They refused to accept the idea of suffering as applying to the Messiah (Isaiah 53), but rather to the nation of Israel. This obsession with national pride caused them to be blind to the truth and justified the condemnation of Jesus. "Having eyes, they see not, and having ears, they hear not."

218. True or False? The greatest interest of the Jewish leaders of this time was to glorify God rather than to get honor for their nation.

Verses 25 through 27. What Jesus said here was, "Why should I tell you again what I have already told you and you refused to believe? You cannot believe because you are not of My sheep. You are not of My sheep because you seek your own self interests and not what pleases God. If you were My sheep, you would

recognize My voice and obey My commands. The works that I do also bear witness that speak the truth."

219. Jesus told the Jewish leaders that they did not _____

because they were not of His sheep.

Verses 28 and 29. Jesus said He would give His sheep eternal life. They will live forever with Him. The Father has given Him each sheep, and no one is able to take them from His hand. Since He and the Father are one, to take them from His hand would be the same as taking them from the Father's hand. When studied carefully, it is seen that these verses are neither an argument for predestination nor for eternal security. It does give the Christian the comfort of knowing that he is safe as long as he remains in the Master's hand. One can be lost only if he willfully leaves God's hand, only if he leaves the Shepherd's fold.

220. Jesus spoke as a _____ to His followers; not to teach eternal security, that is, that a Christian cannot be lost.

Verses 31 and 32. After Jesus had spoken these words, the Jewish leaders again took up stones to stone Him. Quickly He said, "I performed these miracles under the guidance of my Father. For which of these good works do you stone me?" The Jews now got in an argument with Jesus and for the moment were diverted from their attempt to kill Him.

221. Jesus took the Jews by surprise when He asked, "For which of these _____ do you stone me?"

Verses 33 through 36. The Jews replied that they were not stoning Him for a "good work," but because He had made Himself equal to God. This was a highly legalistic interpretation of the law, and Jesus could point out scriptures where men were called gods. They were not seeking justice, for they had already determined that Jesus must die, and they would seize upon the slightest pretext in order to accomplish this. If Jesus had not been one with God, to claim this would have been blasphemous, but He knew who He was and the miracles He performed substantiated that claim.

222. Jesus knew that He was _____ with God and that the miracles He performed were the _____ of God.

Verses 37 and 38. Jesus continued His defense by saying, "If you do not believe me, consider my works. If I am not doing the works of my Father, you cannot be blamed for not believing. But if you judge my works justly, you will see that they are of the Father, and you will believe that I am of the Father, and He is in me." Jesus evidently had not given up on these people and desired that they still believe and be saved.

223. Jesus said that the _____ He did should convince anyone that He is the Son of God.

Verses 39 and 40. Jesus again escaped from His persecutors and went across the Jordan River and stayed near the place where John was first baptizing. It seems that two attempts had been made to arrest Jesus and to stone Him, but He had escaped each time. God protected Him because His time had not yet come.

224. The Jews were unsuccessful in their attempts to kill Jesus because His _____ had not yet come.

Verses 41 and 42. John first baptized in the wilderness of Judea, the exact spot is not known. The people who came to Jesus were country folk and were more receptive to His teaching than the people of Jerusalem. John had attracted them by his blunt and forthright condemnation of evil, and they were now ready to concede that he was a prophet because all he had told beforehand about Jesus had come true; although John, himself, performed no miracles. Many of the plain country people of his region heard Jesus gladly and believed on Him.

225. True or False? The common people of this region were more receptive of Jesus' teaching than the people of Jerusalem and many believed on Him.

ANSWERS:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 207. Openly | 217. Destructive |
| 208. Sheep, Shepherd's | 218. False |
| 209. True | 219. Believe |
| 210. Understand, understand | 220. Comfort |
| 211. Saved, secure | 221. Good works |
| 212. Life | 222. One, works |
| 213. Hireling, Good Shepherd | 223. Works |
| 214. Loves, gave up/or laid down | 224. Time |
| 215. True | 225. True |
| 216. Willingly | |