

I Am the Door and The Good Shepherd
John 10:1-18

The Big Reveal is a technique that makes an important point in a story:

EX: Empire Strikes Back; Gen- Joseph with his brothers...

Jesus: John 6; 8; and now it continues in the life and ministry of Jesus in chapter 10

There are two images in this passage, and I will take them together since they both relate to the issue of sheep and the Shepherd.

Whether you are a veteran of church or a non-participant, you probably know that the image of the Shepherd is pretty prominent in the Bible. Even those who have never been to church have probably heard these words in some context: - a funeral, movie, TV show, billboard, song, etc

“The Lord is myShepherd”

“All we like.... Sheep have gone astray”

There are four key relationship analogies cited in scripture: God as Father; God as Husband; God as King; God as Shepherd. This last one is probably the most familiar to us.

“The Perfect Pastor” / Shepherd

An online survey listed all the qualities that people expect from ‘perfect’ pastors:

They preach for exactly twelve minutes.

They are twenty-eight years of age, but have been preaching for thirty years.

They work from 8 am until midnight every day, but are also the caretaker.

They frequently condemn sin, but never upset anyone.

They wear good clothes, buy good books, drive a good car, give generously to the poor and have a low salary.

They make fifteen daily calls to parish families, visit the housebound and the hospitalized, spend all their time evangelizing the un-churched and are always in the office when they are needed.

They are also very good-looking!

This passage weaves in and out of the two metaphors of Door and Shepherd, so we must pay attention to what is being said.

READ JOHN 10:1-18

THE DOOR

To understand the door image, we need to know the purpose of a door:

Ex: Jesus is NOT saying that he is a member of a 60’s rock band

A Door is all about access- who gets in and how to go out.

EX: the Door of Moria- a secret voice code is needed – “speak friend and enter”

Ex: Monsters Inc – doors are very important, right?

It is helpful to understand the context since Jesus says “Truly, truly”. This is following the encounter with the man born blind. Jesus heals him, and the Pharisees freak out and accuse both Jesus and the man. Jesus exposes the blindness of the Pharisees and then chapter 10 begins with the talk of the true shepherd, the thieves, and the door. Once again, Jesus is exposing the Pharisees as false shepherds.

We also need to know that there are **two types of sheep stalls** being referred to:

1. **V. 1-6 The city/ village sheepfold** – i.e. a central VALET parking garage for the sheep. Many shepherds would deposit their sheep in this large pen and there would be a gatekeeper who would let the shepherds in and out to fetch their sheep. More on this in a minute
2. **V. 7-9 The rural/rustic sheepfold** – a rustic pen of stone walls with an opening where the shepherd himself would sleep to guard the sheep. In such a case he would BE THE DOOR.

This is the one Jesus refers to when he says, “I am the Door of the sheep”.

A few comments and observations on this section:

There is only ONE DOOR -Jesus. There are thieves who try to come in to steal and destroy, but only one true Door who protects and gives life. John 10:10

3/3/18 Eccles series

The word for “life” is not simply “biological” life (bios), but zoe, which CS Lewis describes in Mere Christianity

<http://bradhambrick.com/lewisonlife/>

“The Greek word “bios” refers to The Biological life which come to us through Nature, and which is always tending to run down and decay so that it can only be kept up by incessant subsidies from Nature in the form of air, water, food, etc.

The Spiritual life which is in God from all eternity, and which made the whole natural universe is Zoe. Bios has, to be sure, a certain shadowy or symbolic resemblance to Zoe: but only the sort of resemblance there is between a photo and a place, or statue and a man. A man who changed from having Bios to having Zoe would have gone through as big a change as a statue which changed from being a carved stone to being a real man. And that is precisely what Christianity is about.”

Christianity is about the ABUNDANT life that comes through Jesus – He is the door of life.

EX: Game shows where you pick what is behind a door- so too with life – one door leads to life, others to destruction

v. 7-9 Those who enter by the Door – Jesus will find salvation and satisfaction. It’s all about the door we go through.

I dare say that many here have tried other doors before coming to faith, and even after coming to faith. Knowing Jesus as the Bread, the Light, and the Good Shepherd is the Door to the abundant life.

Now we come to the image of **Jesus as the Good Shepherd**. This is not an idea that Jesus pulled out of a hat. The contrast between the good and the bad shepherd goes way back in the OT. God routinely called out the leaders of Israel because they were bad shepherds.

One of the most tragic images in scripture is that of “sheep without a shepherd”. In the commentary, Joyce Baldwin gives some insights about the bad shepherds of the OT.

https://www.rts.edu/sharedresources/documents/global/Student_Theses/Carnes-Sheep_Without_A_Shepherd.pdf

Zechariah describes a “worthless shepherd” who did not care about lost, scattered or injured sheep, did not feed those that were healthy but instead preyed on them (Zech 11:16-17)

Ezekiel (chapter 34) rails against these same kinds of bad shepherds of Israel, unleashing “a searing attack” on their greed and selfishness, especially for having “exploited the people as if the flock belonged to them, the shepherds.” These shepherds feed themselves, and benefit from the meat, wool, and other products of the flock, but do not feed the sheep (34:2-3). Nor do they engage in the most basic of husbandry practices. They do not treat the ill, bring back strays, or protect the

herd from predation (34:4-5). The herd is scattered, having lost its cohesion, a clear sign that the shepherd is not fulfilling his most basic duty to lead the herd. (34:10).

In that same passage from Ezek 34:11-15, 23-25 God promises to be their Shepherd and to set over them one shepherd, My Servant David, who will feed them and eliminate harmful beasts so they can live securely in the wilderness.

Matt 9:35-36 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

36 Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

<https://www.pbc.org/files/584509059ad2b149c6f683f8/3858.html>

How is Jesus a GOOD Shepherd?

<https://reformedperspective.ca/to-be-known/>

1. I know My sheep AS the Father knows me v. 14-15

What is the picture? Shepherds know sheep in a way that would shock outsiders. There are many commentators who understand the business of shepherds.

EX; J. Douglas Macmillan who had been a shepherd who weeks before had sold lambs. On a train he sees a cargo of sheep and can spot his.

He tells of importance of making eye contact with the sheep and the need to watch them carefully. Why this kind of deep knowledge? Not a compliment. Sheep are dumb and helpless. Most animals when let loose will run wild freely or go home. Sheep do neither. They follow each other and lose their way easily as a group. A herd of wild sheep get lost in a panic.

Jesus shows we are utterly spiritually dependent – in our understanding. We overestimate what we're capable of.

EX: Take your present self as you look back at your past self of 10 years ago. Your present self thinks the past self was a bit of a fool. "I was naïve, back then and needed guidance." Your future self will think of your present self as a naïve jerk. This means that we're always a jerk, but we think we're just getting over it. This is the essence of sheepness.

We are utterly dependent for understanding, but don't know it. We don't know what we don't know, but we won't admit it.

A second Reality: WE ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN:

Psalm 139 – with grandkids – We are never forgotten by God; we are never off his radar or out of his sight or His presence.

EX: Paddington 2 – the sad scene when he thinks the family has forgotten him. What he didn't know is that they were working to free him.

There may be times when you feel like God has forgotten you, but He has not – Ps 139; John 10- The Good Shepherd knows His sheep, and he doesn't desert or forget us because of our foolish sheepish behavior.

Jesus knows our personal sheepness – Nathaniel or the woman at well. "I know what is going on in your heart. The dumb things you've done and will do. I see you to the bottom of your heart, and I love you anyway."

2. He lays down his life for you- this is the ultimate display of love v. 11, 15

Woman to her pastor: "If my husband knew my heart, he'd leave me."

Every minister can say the same thing. If you knew our thoughts and hearts, you'd never come back to listen to another sermon. You know it is true of yourself too. We know that if anyone saw us to the bottom he or she would turn on us. Yet Jesus says, "I know my sheep and I give my life for them."

V 11-13 are important. the hired hand doesn't care for the sheep, but Jesus does.

Keep this in mind about sheep- they were valuable, pound for pound – wool and meat. Shepherds had their worth in the sheep. Jesus contrasts to the hireling who is in it for the money.

Jesus goes way beyond the real image. There is a limit to what we'll do for our pets. Jesus will give himself completely for his sheep. Those in it for the money run when the wolves come. Jesus actually became a lamb Himself, in the place of the sheep. He will lose his life and glory rather than see his sheep perish.

This is amazing – we are his treasure. He owns the universe, but we are his treasure, his sheep. His heart is bound up with us. He dies for us. Is 53 and Ps 22 show his heart. On the cross he faced the wolves and died for his lambs. No stronger statement of dignity of human value. He sees to the bottom of our hearts and still dies for us. He sees something of infinite value – the image of God in us.

Here is the gospel – our helplessness and weakness along with infinite value are shown together. If we fail to see how helplessly sheepish we are, we will never see how valuable we are to him. Our value is not in what we do or accomplish, but in being His image bearers.

He knows us –He doesn't ignore the reality of our sin

He gives his life for us – He lives out the doctrine of substitution. He died for us, in our place.

Lastly, he gives us what we need, v 3 calls and leads out.

Lead out – western shepherds drive sheep, but eastern lead them. When you believe in Christ he leads; he doesn't give you a map. He is the map, and He is with you. If you are a child of God, then you are led by Christ.

He gives himself, not a map. He turns our bad into good. Our redeemer is our creator, so he can instruct us and repair our "mistakes."

Jesus calls us by name – sheep know the voice of shepherd. Here is picture of a pen where the sheep are called out from among other sheep by owner. Typical that they would know his voice, but not that he would name each one, yet Christ does. As shepherd Jesus give us a name – status, significance. It also means our mission – Simon=Peter. It means our distinctiveness. He names us.

It is from Jesus that we get what we were looking for. If you don't get your name from him, you'll look to someone or something else to be your shepherd. If you look to spouse or parents or anyone to do this ultimate naming and leading, you'll find that some are like the thief and some like hireling. They can't give you what you need.

Two things by way of application: The Door and the Shepherd are someone you meet.

1. Follow the shepherd

- **comprehensively**- completely. No area is left out of care by shepherd. This takes time and loving discipline by the shepherd. We usually come to Jesus with an area of hurt, but we

keep the rest hidden. “help my career, but stay away from my love life, or my finances, or my unreconciled relationships, etc.” NO, it doesn’t work that way.

Personally – communion. Others religious leaders leave a teaching to follow, but Christ comes for relationship. Ps. 23 is no accident that is speaks of a banquet. The lamb is now a friend. Jesus is the shepherd who became a sheep, so the sheep could become real people. We become friends – talk regularly, not just when you need money or are in trouble. You need to get to know God and get beneath the surface. Get to know his heart, not just rules.

2 Be a shepherd yourself- He became a lamb, so you can be a shepherd. (Not just for pastors) When you stop having to go to the rest of the world to name you, you can be there for others. You’ll have real security and can do what was done for you – know people, value them and point them to Jesus. You come full circle from sheep to shepherd when you walk by His Spirit.

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