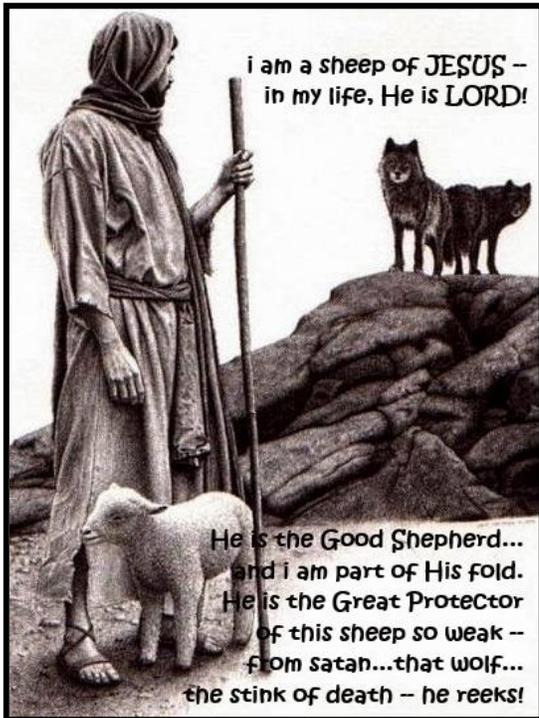


SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017
THEME – SURVEYING THE MAGNITUDE OF GOD’S LOVE
UNIT II – THE FELLOWSHIP OF GOD’S LOVE
“THE LOVE OF CHRIST DEMONSTRATED AS
THE GOOD SHEPHERD”



Sunday School Lesson No. IX - April 30, 2017
Presented by Rev. Frank Davis, III Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: John 10:1-21

Required Reading: John 10:1-30

Motto Texts: John 10:14, 17, *“I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine... Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.”*

Reliable Resources: Standard Lesson Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI); Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Libronix Electronic Library

INTRODUCTION

After our Lord’s strong evidence of His Messiahship in the healing of the blind man in Chapter 9, the tensions were tighter between Him and the Pharisees. But Jesus would not loosen the rope. In Chapter 10, He continues to give more evidence of His Messiahship by presenting Himself as God’s Door to the sheepfold, called The Good Shepherd, demonstrating His uncompromising love.

But what is a good shepherd and what are some of his duties? According to Reference.com “Their main duty is to move the sheep safely from one place to another.” In our Lord’s earthly days, there was an intimate relationship between the shepherd and his sheep, as noted in the lesson in Chapter 10. Quoting, “The truths that cluster around the image of the shepherd and the sheep are found throughout the Bible and they are important to us today.” Remember Psalm 23, *“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.”* We also must remember that God the Father is not slack in the way He expects shepherds (pastors) to handle His spiritual flocks. Jeremiah 3:15 tells us, *“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.”* Now see what 23:1 says, *“Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.”* His good shepherds are noted in Revelation 2-3, *“...the angel of the church...”*

Anticipated Power Points:

- **The Love of the Good Shepherd Discloses His Story. John 10:1-6**
- **The Love of the Good Shepherd is the Door of Security. John 10:7-10**
- **The Love of the Good Shepherd Describes His Sincerity. John 10:11-15**
- **The Love of the Good Shepherd Delivers Eternal Salvation. John 10:16-18**
- **The Love of the Good Shepherd Divides Saints from Sinners. John 10:19-21**

LESSON OUTLINE EXPOSITION

A parable is placed before the self-proclaimed intended shepherds known as the Pharisees. They were the so-called custodians of the Law and religious leaders. It appears that this parable was intended to identify their personal lack of being true shepherds to God’s sheep. (Stop and read verses 1-6 in 2 or 3 translations). The highlight of this passage is the opening words, *“Verily, Verily”* or *“Most assuredly, I say to you”* or *“Truly, Truly.”* Jesus wants all hearers to pay strict and close attention!

According to the Outline Bible, we note the metaphor or parable: “Jesus illustrates His mission on earth by describing two different ways to enter a sheepfold.

1. The wrong way, climbing over a wall (10:1): This is the method of thieves and robbers.
2. The right way, entering through the gate (10:2-6): This is the method of a true shepherd.” Willmington.

Now let us examine the lesson, **“THE LOVE OF CHRIST DEMONSTRATED AS THE GOOD SHEPHERD.”**

I. The Love of the Good Shepherd Discloses His Story. John 10:1-6

Jesus' story is a parable that declares that before He arrived, many religious leaders, i.e., Pharisees, Scribes, and other prophets, took positions of authority over God's heritage and Word. He uses the sheepfold or pen to reveal His message. This was a place where shepherds would secure their sheep by night. A porter stood at the door and kept oversight of several flocks within the high overshadowed walls. When the morning would come, shepherds would come to the door, and the porter would allow them to call out their own sheep, who always responded to their own shepherd.

A. His claim. vs. 1-2. Anyone who tried to gather sheep any other way than to come to the door was a thief and robber!

B. His character. vs. 3-4. The shepherd, who was genuine, was fully recognized by both the porter and the sheep. He had no disguise.

C. His clarification. vs. 5-6. Jesus makes it clear that God's sheep only listen to God's clear voice. But the audience was confused and Jesus went forth to give clarification in the following verses.

II. The Love of the Good Shepherd is the Door of Security. John 10:7-10

A. Against Deceivers. vs. 7-8

Jesus describes Himself as the "Door of the Sheepfold." In the Mideast of Jesus' day, shepherds would leave their sheep in an enclosed area overnight, sometimes called the "sheepfold". It was enclosed on all sides with an opening to which the porter (gate keeper) would act as the door. He sat or laid across the opening all night to guard and protect the sheep. Those who were not the owners of the sheep were called the thieves and robbers and sought deceptive ways to rustle the sheep and rob the shepherd, but not through the door. This described the Pharisees and others who took undue privileges to deceive the sheep, who were the Lord's flock!

B. Against the Destruction. vs. 9-10

MacArthur: "These two verses are a proverbial way of insisting that belief in Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God is the only way of being "saved" from sin and hell and receiving eternal life. Only Jesus Christ is the one true source for the knowledge of God and the one basis for spiritual security."

III. The Love of the Good Shepherd Describes His Sincerity. John 10:11-15

Jesus now declares the difference between Him (The Good Shepherd) and them (the hired hands) who only worked for a pay check and not out of true sincerity. The Life Application Bible Commentary gives four characteristics that separate the Good Shepherd from an evil shepherd:

- "He approaches directly – he enters at the gate.
- He has God's authority – the gatekeeper allows him to enter.
- He meets real needs – the sheep recognizes his voice and follows him.
- He has sacrificial love – he is willing to lay down his life for the sheep." I see Him as one who:

A. Expresses His intentions for the sheep. vs. 11

B. Exposes the enemies of the sheep. vs. 12-13

C. Earnestly loves the sheep. vs. 14-15

IV. The Love of the Good Shepherd Delivers Eternal Salvation. John 10:16-18. How is this done?

A. By revealing His eternal plan. vs. 16

Contrary to the thoughts of the Jewish religious leaders, the Good Shepherd had a plan that would include others outside of Judaism to become His sheep. Jesus had a worldwide mission plan to save all who would call on and believe in Him. (Read John 3:16; Romans 1:16; Acts 10). When we follow the Acts narrative, we discover how the Good Shepherd opened the door of salvation to the sheep of Noah's sons: "the Ethiopian Eunuch, Ch. 8, descendant of Ham...Saul in Ch. 9, descendant of Shem and Cornelius in Ch. 10, descendant of Japheth"; other sheep which includes worldwide evangelism! The Good Shepherd delivers eternal salvation. (Read Acts 4:12).

B. By revealing His eternal power. vs. 17-18

This is the picture of the Gospel which Christ presented and totally fulfilled. (Read I Corinthians 15:1-4). Truly this describes the oneness of the Father and the Son as we find in John 10:30, "*I and my Father are one.*"

V. The Love of the Good Shepherd Divides Saints from Sinners. John 10:19-21

The Good Shepherd reveals a great secret in these verses. His truth and light causes men to make a decision. We are either for Him or against Him; Saint or Sinner! There is no middle of the road! (Read Matthew 10:34-35; John 7:40-43; 9:25).

CLOSING

Where do you stand today, my friend? The Good Shepherd has done everything necessary to prove His love. Now the choice is up to you. **Whose report will you believe?**

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LOOKING AHEAD:

May 7, 2017

Jonah 1:7-17

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.