

John 10:1-6

"False Shepherds and the Good Shepherd's Beloved Sheep"

INTRO: Stranger Danger!

For Further Reflection/Application: *Lord help us to be effectually doers of the Word!*

If you're a Christian, how were you comforted/encouraged as you listened to the word of Christ this morning? What do you want to study further as a result of the sermon?

In God's good creation certain creatures won't listen to (or follow) strangers. "Stranger danger!" (Parents make sure you teach your kids the biblical implications of that statement). On the other hand, sheep and shepherds enjoy a very special bond of love and trust. Think back on some of the related things we talked about during our "sheepology and shepherdology" sermon series.

John 10:1- When Jesus says, "Truly, truly" it often means, "Listen carefully, because this message is of first-rate importance!" Second, please note that the "you" in John 10:1 is a "plural pronoun." Jesus' message is for everyone; (It's for "you and you and you and you"). The Good Shepherd Discourse ought to encourage believers while simultaneously deepening our love for Christ. Listen to the hymn, "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" and Fernando Ortega's wonderful song, "The Good Shepherd" as you meditate on these blessed truths. Unbelievers are beckoned to enter through the "door" (Jn 10:9) by placing their faith in Christ alone! Enter while you can!

Some N.T. scholars have labeled John 10:1-18 a "symbolic discourse." The imagery Jesus uses would certainly have been very familiar to the original audience. Despite this reality, the unbelieving pharisees couldn't grasp the gospel truth (note John 10:6; John 9:40-41).

This commonplace comparison illustrates KEY DIFFERENCES between the Good Teacher Jesus and the Bad Shepherds of Pharisaic Judaism. When commenting on John 10, J.C. Ryle wrote, "The man who makes much of the biblical Christ is a pastor after God's own heart, whom God delights to honor...The minister who makes little of Christ is one who God regards as an IMPOSTER, as one who has climbed up into His holy office not by the door but by *some other way*." See Jude 3-4.

Why does Jesus and the New Testament (apostles) use such strong language when talking about false shepherds/teachers, false doctrine, and false religion? (note Matt. 23; Galatians 1; 1-2 John, 2 Peter, Jude 4f). The tone of the Bible doesn't sit well with the masses today. "Why are you Christians so intolerant and judgmental? Why can't you be more inclusive of other religions?"

Jesus' "Good Shepherd Discourse" should be interpreted against the backdrop of Ezekiel 34 and Ps. 23 and applied against the backdrop of the NT.

In Christ we are part of God's flock (John 10:14/1 Peter 5:2). Jesus is our Chief Shepherd! See also the beloved 23rd Psalm. "The LORD is my shepherd."

How does obeying the voice/word of Christ demonstrate to the watching world that we belong to Him (note John 10:1-4; 14:15, 23; Luke 6:46)?

Where are some of the special places the Good Shepherd has taken you in route to the New Jerusalem/our heavenly home?

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