

John 10:1-18

John 10:1-5 – *“(1) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. (2) But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. (3) To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. (4) And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. (5) And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.”*

A. We need to be aware that there are some who try to sneak in among the sheep (**Matthew 7:15, Mark 12:38-40, and I John 4:1**).

1. We cannot believe that everyone among us are really sheep (**Acts 20:28-31, II Corinthians 11:13-15, II Peter 2:1-3, and Jude 3-4**; cf. **Matthew 22:14**).
2. We should not make ourselves “easy prey” for the wolves (**Galatians 2:1-5, Ephesians 4:14, II Timothy 2:14-18, and II Peter 3:15-18**).
3. The true Shepherd didn’t sneak in (**John 18:20**).

B. The keeper of the door allows the true Shepherd in (**Matthew 17:1-5 and John 5:36-37**) to lead the flock (**Mark 6:34**).

1. The sheep hear the voice of the Shepherd (**John 6:45 and John 18:37**).
2. The Shepherd leads by going before the sheep (**John 12:26, I Corinthians 11:1, and I Peter 2:21-22**).
3. The sheep flee from strangers, for the sheep of the Lord will not hear the stranger’s voice (**Proverbs 19:27, I Timothy 1:3-7, I Timothy 6:3-5, I Timothy 6:20-21, and III John 9-11**).

John 10:6 – *“This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.”*

A. Parables are not always clear (**Psalms 78:2 and Ezekiel 17:2**).

1. Sometimes parables need explained (**Matthew 13:36**).
2. Jesus taught many things by using parables (**Mark 4:1-2**).

B. Since parables are not always easy to understand, it is good to seek the Lord’s explanation before drawing conclusions (**Matthew 15:15**).

1. We do not want to be the ones who hear without understanding (**Ephesians 5:17**).
2. Since there are things that need explanation, we should not fear asking honest questions (**Proverbs 1:5 and Acts 15:2**).

John 10:7-13 – *“(7) Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. (8) All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. (9) I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. (10) The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I*

am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (11) I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. (12) But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. (13) The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.”

- A. Jesus is the door for the sheep (**John 14:6**).
 - 1. One gains access to the Father through Christ (**I Peter 3:18**).
 - 2. There is no other name wherein salvation can be found (**Acts 4:10-12**).
 - 3. Salvation is through Christ (**Acts 15:11** and **Ephesians 2:1-5**).
- B. There were false shepherds that came before Jesus (**Isaiah 56:10-12**, **Zechariah 11:8**, and **Acts 5:36-37**).
 - 1. The sheep did not hear the false ones (**Romans 11:1-5**).
 - 2. That does not mean that some did not listen to the false shepherds (**Jeremiah 23:1** and **Jeremiah 23:32**).
 - 3. In fact, some only wanted to hear false words (**Nehemiah 9:24-26** and **Jeremiah 5:30-31**).
- C. False shepherds are after their own good, not the good of the sheep (**Ezekiel 34:2-5**; cf. **Romans 16:17-18**).
 - 1. False shepherds will flee and leave the sheep in times of danger (**Zechariah 11:15-17**).
 - 2. Jesus on the other hand, died for the sheep (**Titus 2:13-14**).

John 10:14-18 – *“(14) I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. (15) As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. (16) And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. (17) Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. (18) No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”*

- A. Jesus is the good Shepherd (**Hebrews 13:20** and **I Peter 5:4**).
 - 1. He knows His sheep (**I Corinthians 8:3** and **II Timothy 2:19**).
 - 2. At this point, before His death, He foretold of other sheep He has. These other sheep are Gentiles (**Ephesians 2:11-17**; cf. **Acts 2:38-39**).
 - a. Salvation was not just for one nation (**Acts 10:34-35**).
 - b. Jews and Gentiles are supposed to be united as one in Christ (**Romans 9:24**, **I Corinthians 12:13**, and **Galatians 3:26-29**).
- B. The Father loved Christ because of His willingness to die for the sheep (**John 15:9-10**).
 - 1. The Father sent Christ to die for us (**Hebrews 10:5-10**).
 - 2. Jesus pointed out that His life was not “taken”, but rather He gave it by His choice (**Matthew 20:28**, **Galatians 2:20**, **Ephesians 5:2**, and **Ephesians 5:25**).