John 10:1-21

Review…

- **John 9:1-41 - Healing the blind man…**
  - As Jesus left the Temple - He passed by a man blind from birth...
    - His disciples asked - who sinned this man / or his parents - that he was born blind...
    - Jesus answered - neither - but so that the power of God might be shown in his life!
    - Jesus spit in the mud and put it in his eyes - told him to go wash - and he was healed!
  - The man was brought before the religious leaders - he had been healed on the Sabbath...
    - The leaders argued whether Jesus was from God - but it was an amazing miracle...
    - They doubted the story of the man - never blind - till they questioned his parents...
    - When the questioned the man again - 'All I can tell you is I was blind and now I see'...
    - Because he stood up for Jesus - he was kicked out of the Jewish church!
    - Jesus came and found the man - and he believed and worshiped Jesus...
  - Jesus came to open eyes of the blind - and to blind those who think their eyes are open...
    - The religious leaders asked - 'Are you saying we are blind'...
    - 'If you were blind you would not be guilty - you claim to see so your guilt remains!'

The Good Shepherd… (*3 things*)

- **1st - Only one way in… vs. 1-9 (*3 things*)**
  - 1st - Jesus gave the leaders a parable - 'The Good Shepherd'... vs. 1-2 / 6-7
    - But the leaders did not understand the real meaning of the story...
    - As far as they were concerned Jesus was giving advice on how to raise sheep...
    - So Jesus told them the story a second time - explaining it so they would understand...
    - There are going to be things the Bible says we do not understand...
    - Do not get frustrated / instead get excited - you are about to learn something new...
    - The most valuable treasures - gold / diamonds - are not just lying around...
    - You have to dig deep / put in a lot of effort to be able to pull them out...
    - In the same way we need to 'dig in' to the Bible - pull out 'treasures'...
    - Asking Jesus to help us understand - so He will open our eyes so we can see!
  - 2nd - The two main characters in the parable - the 'Sheep' and the 'Shepherds'...
    - The sheep in the sheepfold - represent all the people in the world...
      - And there are many 'shepherds' who try to come and lead the 'sheep'...
      - Parable contrasts the true Shepherd/Jesus and false shepherds/religious leaders...
    - I tell you the truth - anyone who sneaks over the wall of the sheepfold - is a thief...
      - The owner of the sheep fold does not need to 'sneak' in / but a thief does...
      - Referring to the religious leaders - who sought to sneak in and deceive the people...
      - They were thieves in the sense they were 'stealing' God's sheep...
      - They were trying to lead people away from the one true Shepherd - Jesus!
      - The leaders were teaching Religion - and Religion was keeping people from Jesus!
      - Religion makes you trust in traditions and rituals to save you rather than Jesus...
      - Religion has power - demands discipline / sets moral standards - **Colossian 2:21**...

- The danger is it can only control your actions - it does not change your heart!
- But the Shepherd enters through the gate...
  - There is only one way to be saved - there is only one 'gate' that leads to heaven...
  - Jesus told them - 'I AM the Gate' - He is the only way to get to heaven!
  - And anyone can enter that gate - and they will be saved / and find pasture...
  - God desires that all men be saved - He does not want any to perish - **II Peter 3:9**
  - But it is up to us to decide if we where we want to spend eternity...
  - God opened the 'gate' for us to go to heaven - but we have to choose to go through!
  - If we reject the one-way God has provided - there is no second option...
  - The one and only way to get to heaven - is through faith in Jesus!

o 3rd - The TRUE sheep follow THE Shepherd... vs. 3-5 / 8-9

- The 'gatekeeper' opens up the gate for the Shepherd...
  - The 'gatekeeper' is referring to the Holy Spirit - who opens up our hearts to believe...
  - The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin - even before we believe in Jesus - **John 16:7-8**
  - He shows us our need for salvation - He is the one who opens the door...
  - If we listen to the conviction of the Spirit - He leads us to the Gate - Jesus Christ!
- God knows which sheep belong to Him...
  - God calls the TRUE sheep all by name...
    - I helped out at the orphanage in Bacolod - they had over 150 children...
    - No matter how hard I tried I was never able to get down all their names...
    - With all the billions of people in the world - does God know my name...
    - God not only knows us - He never stops thinking about us - He calls us by name!
    - **Psalms 139:17** – "How precious are your thoughts about me, O God! They are innumerable! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand!"
  - How do you know if you are one of the TRUE sheep...
    - The TRUE sheep recognize Jesus voice / the know His Word...
    - You might ask - what if I have never heard Jesus'/the Shepherd's voice...
    - Then you are not a sheep - and you are not going to go to heaven...
    - You might say - 'but I want to go to heaven' / then choose to listen to the Word...
    - Then you will find out you are a sheep - and God has known your name all along!
- The Shepherd 'pushes' the true sheep out of this world - and into heaven...
  - Not all 'sheep' are eager at first to follow Jesus - they need a little 'kick in the pants'...
    - Sometimes it can be hard to let go of this world - realize life is about heaven...
    - It is easy to get caught up in the pursuit of the things of this world / and forget...
    - So the Lord will allow the things of this world to fail us - to remind us...
    - He gives us a little push - so we remember what life is really all about - Jesus!
  - Jesus goes before them - giving them the example they are to follow!
    - Often in life as we are trying to follow Jesus - we end up getting ahead of God...
    - And God sometime takes unexpected turns - and if we are not watching closely...
    - We can assume we know where God is leading us - we end up getting lost...
    - Never get so far behind of the Lord you loose sight of where He is leading...
    - But also never get ahead of Him - thinking you know where He is taking you...
    - Instead step out in faith always keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus!

- **Hebrews 12:2** - "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."

  - True sheep run from the stranger - because they do not recognize their voice...
    - A sheep cannot be misled - because they know the Shepherd's voice...
    - The voice of the Shepherd / Jesus - is the Word of God...
    - The way a banker learns to spot counterfeit money - is to study the real thing...
    - When a counterfeit note comes along - they can spot the imitation immediately!
    - We are to be so well versed in the Word - that when false doctrine comes along...
    - We can spot it as an imitation immediately - and completely avoid it!

- **2ND - THREE DIFFERENT KINDS OF 'SHEPHERDS'... VS. 10-16**
  - 1st - The thief/false teacher - whose only purpose is to kill and destroy... vs. 10
    - The false teach / inspired by satan - only seeks to keep people from knowing God...
    - They kill and destroy - because they keep people from the saving Grace of God...
    - Satan's tactics have not changed – he still tries to get us to doubt the Word...
    - Satan subtly tires to get us to look elsewhere for answers - not to Jesus...
    - He tries to keep us from church from the Bible – from listening to the Word!
    - Just because someone says they go to church - does not make them a Christian...
    - Just because a man says he is a pastor - does not mean he is from Jesus...
    - **I John 4:1** - "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits..."
    - We need the discernment of God - to know what is truly from God!
    - Because the reality is satan has only one desire - to deceive / kill and destroy us!
  - 2nd - The hired hand - is the pastor who is only 'serving' because of the money... vs. 12-13
    - It is a blessing to the church to provide for the pastor to free him up to minister...
      - If a pastor has to work to support himself practically - little time for the church...
      - But a pastor should NEVER demand/even ask - for money - **I Corinthians 9:15**
      - **I Peter 5:2** - "Shepherd the flock of God which is among you... not for dishonest gain."
      - If a church 'hires' a pastor - then it is their responsibility to pay him a salary...
      - But if God chooses a pastor to love His people - it is God who pays his way...
      - If you asked me to build you a bench - I would expect you pay me for the work...
      - But if someone else asked me to build it for you - they would be the one to pay!
      - If a pastor is truly called by God - then God will provide for all his needs!
    - Many become 'pastors' because they think of it as a job - a way to make money...
      - They are not there to love and provide from the people - they take from them!
      - They are just there for the paycheck - as a result fall under the judgment of God...
      - **Ezekiel 34:2** - "Destruction is certain for you shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Shouldn't shepherds feed their sheep?"
      - Too many pastors today abuse they authority they are given in the church...
      - They use the pulpit as a means for personal gain - take advantage of God's people...
      - The result is people are wary of the church - the Gospel message become tainted...
    - When the wolf comes to devour the sheep - the hired hand runs away...
      - When satan attacks / things get tough - the hired pastor is quick to run away...
      - Because the hired pastor does not love the sheep - or care what happens to them...
      - When times get tough - when people do not show - when there is no money...
      - They leave - without any thought for the sheep - only caring about themselves...
  - 3rd - The Good Shepherd - lays down his life for the sheep... vs. 11 / 14-15

- Jesus said 'I AM the Good Shepherd'...
  - There are seven 'I AM' statements given by Jesus in the book of John...
  - The 'I AM' - is one of the titles given by God to Moses (*burning bush*) - **Exodus 3**
  - These 7 statements reveal the character of God through Jesus Christ...
  - 1st - Jesus already showed us He is the 'Bread of life' - He is our Spiritual food...
  - 2nd - Jesus is - 'the light of the world' - show the way to heaven...
  - 3rd - Jesus is - 'the Gate' - the only way to get into heaven...
  - 4th - Jesus is the 'Good Shepherd' - the one who came to die to save us!
- Jesus came that we might have abundant life - everlasting life!
  - The Good Shepherd is willing to do anything / even die - for the sheep...
    - When David was a young man - before he became the King - he was a shepherd....
    - **I Samuel 17:34-35** - "When a lion comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and take the lamb from its mouth... I catch it by the jaw and club it to death."
    - He did not run from danger - David ran after the sheep / and attacked the lion...
    - Satan wants to devour us - he wants more than anything to steal God's sheep...
    - **I Peter 5:8** - "Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour."
    - A Godly Pastor goes after the sheep / taking them out of the jaws of satan...
    - Because He knows that it is only in Jesus we have abundant life!
  - The Good Shepherd is an example to the sheep...
    - A Godly pastor should not just be telling others what to do – but show them as well...
    - A Godly pastor does not tell you to serve – he serves as an example...
    - **I Corinthians 11:1** - "Follow me as I follow Christ..."
  - The Good Shepherd has other sheep - in a different fold - who also will hear His voice...
    - He was speaking to an all-Jewish audience - Jesus was in the Jewish sheepfold...
    - The 'other sheep' are the rest of the world - Jesus was talking about us!
    - The Godly Pastor realizes there are a lot of other sheep in different folds...
    - Any time people start making it about a church / religion / person - stay away!
    - They are not looking to draw you towards Jesus - they are trying to lead you away!

- **3RD - DYING FOR THE SHEEP... VS. 17-21**
  - Jesus gave up His life - but would take it back again... vs. 17-18
    - Jesus knows the Father - and the Father knows Jesus - and they had a plan...
      - For Jesus to lay down His life - die on the cross that we might be forgiven...
      - Giving us both an abundant life here - and eternal life in heaven after...
      - Jesus did not have to go to the cross and die for our sins - He wanted to!
      - It was not men who put Jesus on the cross there - it was not nails that held Him
      - It was our sin - sin that separated us from God - that put Jesus on the cross...
      - It was His GREAT love for you and me that held Him there!
    - But the grave also had no power to hold on to Jesus...
      - He had the power to take His life back again - speaking of the resurrection...
      - The Gospel is God so loved the world – that HE – Jesus/God – gave His life...
      - But the Good news is not that Jesus died – everybody dies – it is the resurrection!
      - By believing in Jesus – and only by faith in Jesus – we are forgiven – saved!
  - There was a great division over Jesus parable... vs. 19-21
    - Some said - 'He has a demon' - why do you bother listening to Him...
    - Others said - 'Can a demon possessed man open the eyes of the blind'...

- The reason was because some of them were sheep / and some of them were not!
- The question we are left to ask is - which one are we - are we following 'other shepherds'...
- Or are we following the Good Shepherd - do we hear the Word of God...
- So that God know our name - and gives us abundant life / eternal life in Jesus!