

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Nov 2015

John: Jesus is the Christ

Lesson #11: Jesus' Flock

INTRODUCTION

How do toddlers you know respond to first seeing you (as long as they are not in trouble)?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION.

Read John 10:1-21

1. There are at least 18 statements about the shepherd in this text. What are some of them?
i.e. - enters through the door (v.2), gets cooperation from the doorkeeper (v. 3), etc.
2. How does Jesus complete the metaphor of the good shepherd?
3. The shepherd often slept in the doorway since there was no door. How is Jesus the door?
4. What is the significance that there is only one door?
5. Who are the sheep? John 17:20-23 The thieves? Eze 34:1-6
6. What are some of the characteristics of the sheep? i.e. recognize voice (v. 3) etc.
7. What happens to the sheep if they don't pass through the door (enter the sheepfold)?
8. How does Jesus' death relate to His promise in verse 10? (Rom 5:8)
(extra credit: Did Christ die for those that would not become part of His flock?)
9. What is the significance that Jesus not only laid down his life willingly but had the power to take it back again (resurrection)? Vv 17-18
10. What are some of the characteristics of the "hireling?" i.e. cowardly (v. 12) 1 Sam 17:34-35
11. How do some religious leaders fit the role of the "hired hand?" Eze 34:2
12. How did the religious leaders respond? How would you have responded?

APPLICATION

How do you recognize the good shepherd's voice? How would others know about your relationship to the good shepherd?

The gatekeeper's (doorkeeper's) business is to guard the entrance. This servant was furnished with arms to fight off intruders, but the shepherd he would let in. It is not certain that Christ intended to make the gatekeeper a figure of any spiritual thing, but if so, he would represent God, who has decided who shall enter through the door. **And the sheep hear his voice.** This is true to the letter. The sheep in the East are so tame and so trained that they follow their keeper with the utmost docility. He leads them forth from the fold just where he pleases. The Eastern shepherds *lead* their sheep, while in our country we *drive* them. **He calleth his own sheep by name.** This corresponds exactly with the facts of Eastern shepherd life. They give names to sheep as we do to horses, cows, and dogs. "Passing by a flock of sheep," says Mr. Hartley, "I asked the shepherd to call one of his sheep. He instantly did so, and it left its pasturage and its companions, and ran to the shepherd with a promptitude and signs of pleasure that I never witnessed before."

The People's New Testament, 1891