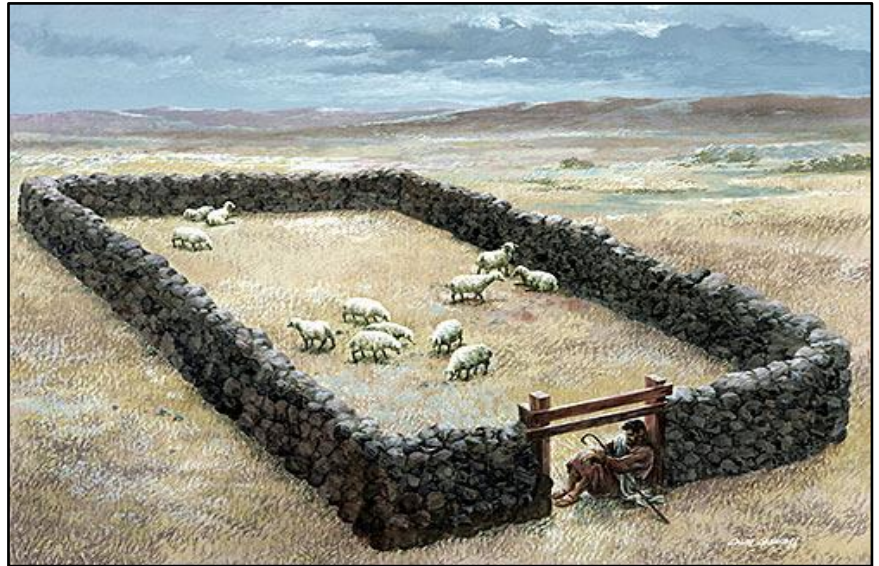


Lesson 2

"GREATER THINGS"

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

¹Verily, 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. ²But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. ⁴And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. ⁵And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. ⁶This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. ⁷Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The 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. ¹¹I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. ¹²But 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. ¹³The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. ¹⁵As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸No 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."



John 10:1-18

I. Jesus Speaks About the Shepherd and the Sheep

(verses 1 - 5)

- A. Jesus said, "He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber" (verse 1).
1. Stones, usually with thorny brush, were often placed into the top of the walls of the sheepfold. Thick thorn bushes were also often used to make a fence for a temporary makeshift sheepfold. Caves sometimes served as a sheepfold, with small rock or brush barriers placed in front of them.
 2. Predators such as wolves and other animals sought to eat the sheep, and they were particularly active at night. They could not penetrate the sheepfold, which was a walled structure topped with briars, guarded by the shepherd, to keep out those who wanted to destroy the sheep.

- B. The shepherd of the sheep always enters by the door (verse 2). The porter (doorkeeper) opens it for him (verse 3).
 - 1. The shepherd has the authority to lead and care for the sheep, while the porter's authority is limited to controlling access to the sheepfold.
- C. The sheep know the voice of their shepherd and follow him (verses 3, 4).
 - 1. Sheep are totally dependent on the shepherd. They would perish without him.
- D. The sheep will not follow a stranger (verse 5).

II. Jesus Identifies Himself as the Good Shepherd (verses 6 - 10)

- A. Those to whom Jesus spoke did not understand the things which He said (verse 6). Jesus makes further explanation. Apostle John identifies this narrative as a parable.
 - 1. Jesus, in another setting, gave His reasons for speaking in parables (Matthew 13:10 - 17).
- B. Jesus declared, "**I am the door of the sheep**" (verse 7). Jesus repeats the dangers.
 - 1. "**All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them**" (verse 8).
- C. Jesus compares the sheep to humans who follow Him as the Shepherd. "**I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture**" (verse 9).
- D. Jesus re-emphasizes the danger of thieves, asserts Himself as the safety net and provider, and again makes the comparison of sheep to humans.
 - 1. "**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**" (verse 10).

III. The Authority and Power of Jesus (verses 11 - 18)

- A. These further statements by Jesus helps us better understand how these truths personally apply to us.
 - 1. "**I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep**" (verse 11).
 - a. You and I are sheep. Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He gave His life for us. Jesus follows with a warning:
 - 2. A "**hireling**" is just that - a hired hand. He is not a shepherd, and does not have the heart of a shepherd. He "**careth not for the sheep.**" He will flee at the first sign of danger (verses 12, 13).
- B. Jesus again declares Himself as "**the good shepherd.**" He and His sheep know each other (verse 14).
 - 1. Jesus claims His Father as His authority (verse 15).
 - 2. For discussion: Who are the sheep of another fold? (verse 16).
- C. Jesus has power over life and death (verses 17, 18). Your life is in His hands. TRUST JESUS TODAY!

This is one of those "**greater things**" that you can claim today.