

CCF Study Notes
Tuesday 7 AM Study
14 March 2006
John Chapter 10

Before beginning to read from John Chapter 10 let's spend some time in prayer, considering all that Jesus does for us as our Good Shepherd. Let's ask God to:

1. **Protect** us from thieves and robbers;
2. **Lead** us with His voice;
3. **Give** us life more abundant;
4. **Allow** us to embrace Jesus' finished work;
5. **Help** us believe both Jesus words and works;
6. **Let** us rest in the assurance of Jesus' eternal protection, and
7. Enable us to **Know** Jesus as the Son of God, one with the Father.

When did the first portion of Chapter 10 take place (assuming it immediately follows the incident of chapter 9)? When did the second portion of chapter 10 take place (at what time of year, remembering that the feast of dedication is often called the festival of lights)? What connects these two incidents, that they would be placed in the same chapter? Sometimes Jesus finishes a lesson long after He started teaching a lesson in our lives. Don't give up on things you don't yet fully understand – Jesus may have more to say on the subject.

The teaching of the first half of chapter 10 seems to flow naturally from chapter 9. So who or what is Jesus responding to? Those who would deny access to the fellowship of God's people need to be very careful. The Shepherd is watching!

What is represented by the sheepfold in the allegory of verses 1 through 5? Consider carefully what Jesus says in verse 16. Jesus came primarily to the lost sheep of Israel. Fortunately for most of us, Jesus calls other sheep to another fold as well. Who are the other sheep? What is their fold?

Some people might say that verse 10b is presents the gospel in a nutshell. Is that gospel message complete? If not, what verses would need to be added to verse 10b to make a complete presentation of the gospel message? Abundant life is something Jesus alone can give us. What sets Jesus apart is that He came to give. Imposters come to take what they can get and often leave death and disillusionment in their wake. Yet Jesus is not only a shepherd, but The _____ of God, slain on our behalf.

Are all of the sheep in the fold of verses 1 through 5 Jesus' sheep? If not, who's are the other sheep? Notice the division that is described in verses 19 through 21. Does this parallel another division already described? What idea event so divided the multitude? Oftentimes it is blindness which separates those who believe from those who cannot believe. But Jesus can heal even those who are born spiritually blind. We must never give up on anybody, since we do not know who Jesus might heal – even as He is passing by.

What is the identifying mark of Jesus' sheep? (Verses 26 through 27) If a person claims to be one of God's children, one of God's sheep, how might we discern the truth concerning their position or identification? When dealing with cult members, we start by asking what they believe concerning Jesus Christ. There will always be something that Jesus claimed concerning Himself that they do not believe.

Verse 30 may seem out of place to some people. This bold (and highly offensive) claim seems to come out of nowhere. Yet there is a very good reason why Jesus makes the claim at just that moment. (Consider the season, and the history of Hannukah ago in...) There is a particular sense in which Jesus is (and we are also to be) the light of the world. Our actions, or works are to be a light – just as Jesus works, especially the signs, were a light to show who Jesus was and why He came.

Jesus uses a very interesting argument based on the 82nd Psalm. In what sense were the people gods? How were they acting like "gods" at that very moment? Do we ever elevate ourselves to that position? How do we avoid such blasphemy? Who was really guilty of blasphemy in this encounter?

Sometimes, after a period of conflict, it is good to get away for a while. Jesus went to a particular place to rest. Why did He choose that place? What event was attached to that particular location in John's gospel? What were the people reminded of when they saw Jesus in this setting again? It is as we meditate on all that God has said to us, and as we remember our commitments to God in years gone by that our faith is renewed.

Why not spend a few quiet moments considering Jesus, who He is and how He called us? Let's spend some time in prayer thanking God for sending the Good Shepherd who gave His life for us as the Lamb of God – The Shepherd who came as a Lamb.

What does this passage teach about sheep? About false shepherds? About unbelief? If there is a judgment which men receive in this life what is that judgment?