



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 25

Preacher – Sandy Mason | Text – John 10:1-21

Summary:

In this section we see Jesus using beautiful language to help his disciples understand his role in the lives of his people. By using a common agricultural metaphor, Jesus revealed to his followers the difference between a true shepherd and a false shepherd, and what it means for the sheep to be under the careful and watchful eye of the Good Shepherd. He also highlights his absolutely unique role as mediator between the Father and the sheep. Jesus is *the* Good Shepherd – there is no one like him!

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?
2. Why do you think Jesus used the 'shepherd' imagery? Where else have you seen this language in the Bible?
3. How do the sheep recognize the Shepherd's voice? What is Jesus telling his followers about the difference between the Good Shepherd and others who might seek to lead the sheep?
4. **Application:** How do you recognize Jesus' voice each day? How can you discern the voices of those who are NOT the true shepherd?

5. Review the end of chapter 9: What is the context in which Jesus uses this 'shepherd' imagery? Why do you think the Pharisees and others who heard him didn't understand him (v. 6)?

6. Jesus says both, "I am the door" (v. 9), and "I am the good shepherd" (v. 11, 14). What does he mean by these statements? How is he "the door"? How is he "the good shepherd"?

7. Who are the "thieves and robbers" (v. 8)? What do the thieves and robbers bring to the sheep (v. 10)? Who are the "hired hands" (v. 12)? What do the hired hands do for the sheep (vv. 12-13)? By contrast, what does Jesus do for the sheep?

8. Look at the word "know" or "knows" in vv. 14-15. Discuss what it means that Jesus knows his own and they know him, and that Jesus knows the Father and the Father knows him. What does this say for Jesus' unique role and position?

9. **Application:** What's your responsibility (as one of the sheep) toward the Good Shepherd? What does it look like for the sheep (us) to follow the Shepherd?

10. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?