

The Shepherd's Voice

I. The Eastern shepherd

- A. Led the sheep, did not drive them
- B. Had an intimate, loving relationship with the sheep
- C. He gave each sheep a name and taught them to respond to his voice
- D. At night, he led them into a safe enclosure, then often would lie across the entrance becoming the door
- E. Several flocks would often occupy one enclosure, so in the morning each shepherd would call his flock by name, and the sheep would follow their true shepherd
- F. Was devoted to their sheep, risking or even giving their lives in defense of them against marauding beasts or thieves and robbers
- G. John 10:1–5; “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

II. Enter by the Door

- A. Chapter 10 is an extension of Chapter 9
- B. The pharisees had cast the man who had been blind, but healed by Jesus, out of the Synagogue, yet he had entered by “the door”
- C. We have to go back to where it all started
 - 1.1 Samuel 8:1–9; When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. ² The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. ³ Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice. ⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah ⁵ and said to him, “Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.” ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the Lord. ⁷ And the Lord said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. ⁸ According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. ⁹ Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”
- D. Since that time the combined forces of evil priesthood and monarchy overshadowed the true Israel
- E. The Israelite kingdom collapsed and became subject to Rome
- F. The priesthood was now practically in control of the entire state
- G. They desired the restoration of Israel more than anything else, including the Messiah

H. Jesus' message to them was that they were thieves and robbers, and had not entered by the door,

I. And it started with their rejection of God as their king

J. The Pharisees did not reject God with their words, to the contrary, they claimed to be followers of the one true God

1. Their actions showed their true desire

2. By rejecting Christ, they rejected God (again)

K. We can claim to be religious as well, but really we have rejected God as our king because we haven't entered by the door

1. There are some in the fold who do not belong to the Shepherd

2. Matthew 13:24–30; ²⁴ He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷ And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

3. Matthew 7:21–23; ²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’ ”

L. Here is the key, “does the will of my Father who is in heaven”

M. Doing the will of God, through Christ, is the only way to enter through the door, any other way and we are thieves and robbers

N. The Pharisees, claiming to be doing God's will, were really focused on their own will, what they wanted and desired

O. Christ has called them by name, but they refused to hear the call

III. Called by Name

A. God knows exactly who you are

1. Psalm 139:13–16; ¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

2. You are fearfully and wonderfully made

3. God knows and has planned every day of your life

B. God has an intimate knowledge of us, like a close friend

C. God knows exactly how many hairs are on your head. Ever try to count them?

D. He has called us to Himself

1. "Called," from the Latin word "vocare" meaning "to call"
2. This is where we get the English word "vocation"
3. This word has changed over the centuries
4. Its original meaning was for those who were called into ministry (centuries ago that would have been monks)
5. The meaning was changed in the middle ages to include secular work as a calling, but with religious overtones
6. Now, the word vocation has come to mean a job or career without much (or any) religious implication at all

E. But God has called us. Not to some career path, but to Himself!

F. Our vocation is not auto parts, lawn and gardens, agriculture, ranching; it is Christianity

1. Matthew 22:35–40; ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

G. Everything we do should be focused around Jesus' statement here, loving God with everything we are, and a selfless love for those around us

H. To further understand our service, our calling to God is our primary focus, look at Paul's words to the Colossians

1. Colossians 3:16–17; ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
2. Dwell - a place to live, abide, reside
3. Richly - abundantly
4. Use God's word to teach and admonish each other
5. Doing everything in the name of, by the authority of, Jesus
6. This is the way we are taught, by God, to live our lives. Everything we do is primarily focused on Jesus first

IV. Listen to His Voice

A. Acts 3:22–23; ²² Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. ²³ And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.'

B. Luke 9:35; And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!"

C. Let's spend a few minutes listening to Jesus

1. Matthew 28:18–20; ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of

the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2. Mark 16:15–16; ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
3. John 13:34–35; ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
4. Matthew 6:19–21; ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
5. Matthew 7:13–14; ¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.
6. Matthew 7:24–27; ²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”
7. John 10:1–5; “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

V. Do You Hear Him?

- A. He has called you by name
- B. Enter through the door
- C. Listen to the voice of the Shepherd