

LISTENING TO THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE ~ JOHN 10:1-21

MY SHEEP KNOW MY VOICE ~ John 10:1-6

[1] "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. [2] The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep.

→ Sheep Fold

[3] The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. [4] When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. [5] But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." [6] Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

APPLICATION

How Do We Learn To Know Our Shepherd's Voice?

- through God's Word
- through the Holy Spirit

1 Thess.5:19 (ESV) Do not QUENCH the Spirit.

Ephes. 4:29-30 (NIV) Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. [30] And do not GRIEVE the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- through Godly & Wise Christians
- through God Exalting Music

I AM THE GATE ~ John 10:7-10

[7] Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. [8] All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.

Ezekiel 34:2-4 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds, the leaders of Israel. Give them this message from the Sovereign Lord: Destruction is certain for you shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Shouldn't shepherds feed their sheep? [3] You drink the milk, wear the wool, and butcher the best animals, but you let your flocks starve. [4] You have not taken care of the weak. You have not tended the sick or bound up the broken bones. You have not gone looking for those who have wandered away and are lost. Instead, you have ruled them with force and cruelty. (NLT)

[9] I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. [10] The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

APPLICATION

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. [8] Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. [9] But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. [10] That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (NIV)

THE GOOD SHEPHERD DIES FOR HIS SHEEP ~ John 10:11-21

[11] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. [12] The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. [13] The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. [14] "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me-- [15] just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Hired Hands...

- do Not OWN the sheep
- ABANDON the sheep when attacked
- do Not CARE about the sheep

[16] I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. [17] The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. [18] No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

The Good Shepherd

- knows His Sheep
- gives His Life for the sheep vs. 14
- has One Flock vs. 16
- lays down His Life it is Not taken from Him vs.18

Thieves & Robbers

- break into the fold vs.1
- scare the sheep vs. 5
- are those who came before Jesus vs. 8
- come to steal, kill, and destroy vs.10

[19] At these words the Jews were again divided. [20] Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?" [21] But others said, "These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

TAKE AWAY ??

[4] ...HIS sheep follow him because they know HIS voice. [5] But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."