



Sermon Notes and Study Questions

Saved and Set Free

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own 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. ¹³The 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—¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No 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.”

John 10:1-18

Notes:

Introduction: What did Jesus come to do?

- What didn’t he come to do?

The Enemy Must Fall

- We have an enemy that hits us in our brokenness

Jesus is Calling You to Life

- Jesus knows you.
- Our sin, our failing, it does not get in the way of God loving us, it excites him to love us. It moves him to rescue us.

Jesus has Already Defeated our Enemy

- D-O versus D-O-N-E
- What are we supposed to Do?
 1. Don't try to do it on your own
 2. Remember that "the Good" can get in the way of "the Best"
 3. Believe in the God of the Impossible

Connecting Questions

1. Growing up, what was your favorite holiday, and why was it special?
2. Have you ever felt like you have been under attack from somebody who really wanted to see you destroyed? What happened?

Discussion Questions:

1. What, if anything, is changed by the fact that we actually have a powerful spiritual enemy that wants to steal our joy, kill our dreams and destroy our lives?
2. What do you think are the key teachings about Satan that should inform the way we follow Jesus?
3. What do you think are the key ideas that should inform our understanding of Jesus because he claims to be “the Good Shepherd”?
4. On at least 12 separate occasions, Jesus told the disciples that it was necessary for him to die in order to establish His kingdom. Do you think they understood what he was saying even though he told them in advance? Why or Why not?
5. If Satan is defeated, why do you think He is still wreaking havoc? What are Scriptures that can help us understand this? If we can't think of any Scriptures, where can we go to make sense of this issue?
6. What is your response to the following statement: Jesus didn't come to make bad people good, but to bring dead people back to life.
7. Our salvation is complete. There is nothing we need to do in order to be saved. What are ways that we slip into a mentality of “D-O'ing” versus trusting in what He has “D-O-N-E”?
8. How can we be a source of encouragement to one another to really live out the finished work of Christ?
9. Because the “Good” can get in the way of the “Best”, sometimes our own dreams are drawn up into God's larger dream for us, but what we experience is a temporary setback. How have you seen this work out in your own life?
10. How did God speak to you through the message today?

Going Deeper into Scripture

Read John 10:1-18

11. What do you think are important points of context from the account of the man born blind in John 9 that help fill Jesus' teaching in John 10?
12. Both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, the imagery of "Shepherd" is used to describe God's relation with his people. It is also used to describe those who God called to lead, but often times those called to lead were not good shepherds. The first time anyone ever claimed to be "the Good Shepherd" was here in John 10. What do you think the significance of "Good" adds to the picture?
13. There were others who came before Jesus who claimed to be the "anointed leader" that was going to overthrow Israel's enemies. What does Jesus say about those who came before?
14. If people refuse to listen to Jesus' voice, what does that mean according to John 10? What are we called to do for those who refuse to listen?
15. Why do you think Jesus emphasizes the fact that "nobody takes my life, but I lay it down of my own accord"? Why might it be important?
16. All of this passage was spoken to the religious leaders. What do you think they heard and why?