

# John 10

Cultural challenges with John 10.

It is important for us to work to understand what Jesus meant when he said it. Then, after understanding what He meant in that context, we can think about what this chapter means for us today in our context.

## **Raising Sheep:**

- Sheep folds to protect from predators or thieves at night.
- Jesus uses these common, everyday images of caring for sheep to tell people about himself and about following him.

## **OT background.**

- God is called the shepherd of Israel
- Israel's leaders were also called shepherds.
- Ezekiel 34: 1-10. Listen and notice the phrases that seem to be similar to what you just read in John 10.
  - What did you hear that sounded Jesus in John 10?
- Jeremiah 23:1-6. Listen and notice the phrases that seem to be similar to what you just read in John 10.
  - What did you hear that sounded Jesus in John 10?

## **Hanukkah**

- Jesus is at the Festival to communicate about himself and about following him.
- Hanukkah became a season that asked hard questions about failed leadership and false shepherds.

## **Jesus begins with an illustration from raising sheep . (1-5)**

He is setting up the question: Who is the right owner (shepherd) of the people of Israel? Is it him? Or is it the religious leaders who are against him? This is the question of people's minds.

*Listeners: Failure to understand in v6*

They cannot figure out how this means anything.

**Jesus: “I am the gate.” (7-10)**

- Jesus adds another layer of meaning and develops another metaphor related to his sheep illustration.
- This thought parallels 14:6, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
- There are robbers—false leaders. The true sheep did not listen to them.
- Life to the full. That special kind of life that you get to have when you follow Jesus.
  - The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want....

**Jesus: “I am the good shepherd.” (11-18)**

- Jesus is basically saying, I am the Messiah. –though he is using a metaphor.
- Startling intimacy of the sheep and their shepherd. The model for our relationship to Him is His relationship to the Father.
- Jesus is talking about who he is and about his special relationship to God. And the willingness to do what the other desires.
- He clearly says that he is not a victim of human conspiracies or power. He is obediently participating in the plan of God. He is making this choice.

**Listeners: Some accept and some reject. (19-21)**

**Jesus: I am the Messiah. (22-38)**

- Jesus is pushing the choice between following him as Messiah or following their religious leaders.
- High point of explanation of his identity. I’ve shown you by my works that I am from God. Then he says clearly with his words, “The Father and I are one.”

**Listeners: Many believe and follow; some try to kill and arrest him. (31, 39-42)**

**Jesus responds to the mixed reactions**

- Jesus defends with Psalm 82. The whole psalm is about God judging poor leadership!
- It recalled Exodus “Israel is my firstborn son, and I told you, ‘Let my son go, so he may worship me.’ ”

Jesus concludes his public ministry in the book of John with these words.

**Application**

- May we be sheep that listen, follow, and believe even when Jesus’ words are at odds with our culture’s expectations of God and his followers.