

John 10:1–18

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BIG SANDY, Texas—In the 7th chapter of John, Jesus and His disciples went to Jerusalem to observe the Feast of Tabernacles (verses 8–10). He began teaching in the temple in the middle of the Feast (verse 14).

Many Christians believe that some of the instructions that Jesus gave at the end of the Feast are found in John 8, 9 and 10.

This week, let’s notice John 10:1-18.

Comforting the oppressed

In last week’s article about John 9, we saw how parents were fearful of religious leaders who made a habit of casting people out of the synagogue (verse 22). As it turned out, their son was indeed cast out (verse 34).

We also saw how Jesus comforted the man (verses 35-39) and how He corrected the Pharisees (verses 40-41).

As we continue reading into John 10, we can see some specific reasons why we can be comforted.

Hearing the voice

In first six verses of chapter 10, Jesus told them a parable about sheep.

He explained that thieves and robbers climb over the fence instead of going through the gate (verse 1).

On the other hand, Jesus Christ is the gatekeeper (verse 2).

Notice some beautiful thoughts from verses 3-5.

- The sheep hear His voice.
- He calls His own sheep by name.
- He leads them out—they follow Him because they know His voice.
- The sheep will flee from strangers—because they will not follow the voice of strangers.

Described hirelings

We see in verse 6 that the disciples were not completely comprehending the parable. Therefore, He told them directly: "I am the door of the sheep" (verse 7).

He mentioned three main goals of thieves—to steal, to kill and to destroy (verse 10).

He contrasted the difference between the Good Shepherd and hirelings (verses 12-13). A hireling does not care for the sheep in the same manner as the Good Shepherd.

Laid down His life

In verses 15-18, Jesus mentioned how He as the Good Shepherd willingly laid down His life for the sheep.

Years earlier, the prophet Ezekiel described how professing shepherds hurt the sheep in their care (Ezekiel 34:1-6).

- They fed themselves instead of feeding the flock (verses 2-3).
- They didn't help the diseased and weak sheep (verse 4).
- They didn't seek the lost sheep (also verse 4).
- They ruled the sheep with force and cruelty (also verse 4).
- They allowed the sheep to be scattered (verses 5-6).

Other sheep

In the midst of this discussion, Jesus also mentioned another fact that seems to escape religious people who tend to view themselves as exclusive.

John 10:16—"And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd."

It is easy for people who view themselves as exclusive to become puffed up with pride. Prideful people (including prideful leaders) do not have a correct view of the Body of Christ.

Thank God for the Good Shepherd.