Shepherd of Your Soul April 11, 2021

*John 10:1-21 Series: Life, Full and Unending*

Most of us don’t want a shepherd. We want a consultant. We want somebody who’s on a retainer and can come when we need them. – Tim Keller

Intro: How do you find the train station?

1. Beware the influencers who want to profit from you
2. Robbers want to steal you

v. 1 *he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber*

v. 8 *All who came before me are thieves and robbers …*

v. 10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.*

1. Wolves want to destroy you

v. 12 *the wolf snatches them and scatters them*

1. Hired hands want to profit from you

v. 12 *He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.*

v. 13 *He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.*

* What are some ways that we’re influenced by the world?
* What do you think the religious leaders were doing to have Jesus compare them with robbers who steal and destroy?
* How can you discern a robber, wolf, or hired hand today?
* How do we protect ourselves against the people and forces that battle for our souls?

1. Embrace the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for you
2. Jesus calls you by name

v. 2 *he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep*

v. 3 *To him the gatekeeper opens.*

v. 3 *he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out*

v. 4 *he goes before them …*

1. Jesus satisfies you with abundance

v. 7 *Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.*

v. 9 *I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.*

v. 10 *I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

Ezekiel 34:14-15 *I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD.*

1. Jesus lays down His life for you

v. 11 *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

vv. 14-15 *I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and* *I lay down my life for the sheep.*

v. 17 *For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.*

* What does it tell you about Jesus that He calls you by name?
* What does the image of the door tell you about Jesus?
* Jesus uses the image of pasture to describe the life that Jesus provides for us. What is He describing by using that term?

1. Examine your sheep credentials
2. Sheep listen to the Shepherd’s voice

v. 3 *The sheep hear his voice …*

John 8:47 *Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.*

1. Sheep follow the Shepherd’s voice

v. 4 *the sheep follow him, for they know his voice*

1. Sheep reject the stranger’s voice

v. 5 *A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.*

v. 8 *All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.*

1. Jesus stuck with the sheep imagery even when the disciples didn’t understand it

v. 6 *This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.*

1 Peter 2:25 *For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

* In Jesus’ time, just as today, there were lots of people who didn’t hear His voice or follow Him. What is His point then that the sheep hear and follow Him?
* What are some of the obstacles that keep you from listening to the Shepherd’s voice?
* Tim Keller said, “Most of us don’t want a shepherd. We want a consultant. We want somebody who’s on a retainer and can come when we need them.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
* What does it say about us that the Bible so often refers to us as sheep?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study John 10:22-42

Notes