

**I. THE PARABLE**

A. In context to the previous passage

1. Jesus had just called them blind
  - a. Their sin remaineth – they would not repent / would not agree
    - i. Matthew 23:24 – “Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.”
    - ii. Matthew 15:14 – “Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”
  - b. Anyone that entereth not by the door of the sheepfold
  - c. He was speaking to THEM, the Pharisees
    - i. The religious leaders of the Jews
    - ii. Right after a man who HAD been blind was made to see
    - iii. Right after that man had been READY to obey Jesus!
    - iv. Right after that man had worshipped Jesus there
2. He told them a parable (vs. 1) – “say unto you”
  - a. And then the Word of God reconfirms it (vs. 6)
  - b. And then Jesus EXPLAINS it to them AGAIN (vs. 7)
  - c. It seems very clear that He was speaking to the Pharisees
  - d. And by extension to all of the religious Jews
  - e. There was division among the JEWS (vs. 19) in response
3. This is a parable of accusation toward the religious leaders

B. The Contrast

1. Vs. 1 – The Wrong Way
  - a. Jesus speaks of a “sheepfold” and says that there is a wrong way
  - b. There is a door to the sheepfold
  - c. And anyone who claims ownership of it must use the door
  - d. ANY other way
    - i. Not by the door
    - ii. By climbing up, going around, etc.
    - iii. IS by definition NOT the owner
    - iv. Therefore a thief and a robber!
2. Vs. 2 – The Right Way
  - a. There is only one person who can legitimately by the door
  - b. The shepherd of the sheep (vs. 2)
  - c. He is the owner of the sheepfold. The owner of the sheep.
  - d. The porter only opens to Him, not the thief or the robber
  - e. Only HE can call his own sheep by name
  - f. Only He can lead them out
3. The Wrong Interpretation

- a. These verses are not speaking about unsaved people and heaven
  - i. It isn't talking about trying to do good works for Salvation
  - ii. It speaks of sheep.
  - iii. Sheep that know the Shepherd's voice!
  - iv. If Jesus is the Shepherd
  - v. Then this could only mean: Saved People
- b. Vs. 2 – The shepherd of the sheep
  - i. That's not a picture of you or I trying to get Saved
  - ii. Only One legitimate person fits that picture!
  - iii. Only Jesus Christ is that Shepherd

### C. The Two Doors

- 1. The door of the sheepfold (vs. 1) and the door of the sheep (vs. 7)
  - a. The first is feature to the parable
  - b. The second is a feature of the explanation
  - c. There are some differences that become apparent with study
- 2. In verse 1 we noted that the only the Shepherd entered by the door
  - a. Specifically of the sheepfold
- 3. In verse 7, those who enter are different from Jesus (vs. 9)
  - a. The door of the sheep IS Jesus
  - b. Only by HIM may a man enter in and be Saved
  - c. So what is the Sheepfold? And who is the porter?

## II. THE PORTER

### A. The Sheepfold

- 1. Sheepfolds are for ... SHEEP, not Goats
- 2. But these are also the Shepherd's sheep – they follow and obey Him
  - a. The fold has boundaries and protection
  - b. The sheep leaving are organized and obedient
  - c. The sheep hear the "voice" of the Son of God – Scripture
- 3. Biblically, only the institutional Church matches this description
- 4. Acts 20:28 – "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."
  - a. Makes sense that He is speaking about a sheepfold that He owns
  - b. That He purchased with His own blood!
- 5. Interestingly, Paul is speaking to a group of pastors
  - a. And echoes Christ's words of warning about wolves!
  - b. Acts 20:29 – "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."
- 6. And there are other folds
  - a. Just like there are members of other churches
  - b. This is used by Mormons to try to prove the book of Mormon
  - c. But Jesus is obviously speaking about Gentiles here

## B. The Door

1. For this first passage (vs. 1-6)
  - a. The door to the sheepfold is Scripture
  - b. The LEGITIMATE Shepherd is demonstrated by the Word of God
  - c. And Jesus Christ IS the Word of God
2. For this next passage (vs. 7-16)
  - a. The door to the Sheep refers to Salvation
  - b. And only Jesus is the doorway to Salvation
3. Doorways
  - a. The doorway to the Kingdom of God is Salvation
  - b. The doorway to Church Membership is Baptism
  - c. And the sheepfold is typical of a church
    - i. The Kingdom of God is universal...invisible...unstructured
    - ii. Jesus instituted His church to be different than that
  - d. So... where is baptism? It started with the Porter

## C. The Porter

1. Since the legitimate Shepherd is proclaimed by Scripture
  - a. Who opened up for Him?
  - b. Who put together the raw materials for this sheepfold?
  - c. Who is NOT the Shepherd but went before Him?
  - d. The porter ONLY opens up for the Shepherd
2. John the Baptist
  - a. Definition of a porter: One who is in charge of the “port” or gate.
  - b. Also a carrier; a person who carries or conveys burdens for hire.
  - c. John was certainly a “carrier” of a great message – make straight the paths of God!
3. Baptism
  - a. These things already exist in this parable
    - i. The Shepherd
    - ii. The Sheep
    - iii. The Sheepfold
    - iv. How does one become a member of the sheepfold?
  - b. Even Jesus Christ was baptized
    - i. Vs. 3 – He calleth His own sheep by name, they hear Him
    - ii. Mark 1:17 – “And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. (18) And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.”
    - iii. When did He call them to come after Him?
    - iv. After He was baptized by John the Baptist
    - v. Even the Head is a member of the Body!
  - c. And as the Shepherd and owner of the sheep, He protects!

## III. THE PROTECTOR

- A. Jesus describes His role as Shepherd
  - 1. He is responsible for the sheep (vs. 7)
    - a. No one can be made into a sheep without Him (or Salvation)
    - b. He makes that clear in vs. 9
    - c. He uses the Bible word “Saved” (not decision, not dedication, not a new leaf, not commitment...)
  - 2. No one can go in and out and find good pasture (vs. 9)
  - 3. Psalm 23:1&2 – “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (2) He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.”
  - 4. Come in for safety and repose / Out for green pastures and still waters
  - 5. Think of King David – He protected the flock from a lion and a bear
- B. He is the Good Shepherd
  - 1. What defines a “good” shepherd? (vs. 11)
    - a. That He would lay down His life for the sheep
    - b. A hireling wouldn’t do that (vs. 12)
    - c. The hireling has NO SKIN in the game. No investment!
  - 2. What does that mean? (wages of sin = hireling)
  - 3. No one who needs Salvation can take the place of Jesus
- C. He is directly accusing the Religion of the Day
  - 1. The Pharisees are hirelings, empty religion is a hireling
    - a. They looked on Jesus as an “interloper”
    - b. But in fact, THEY were the thieves and robbers
    - c. Hirelings do not and CANNOT care for the sheep
    - d. The arm of flesh cannot save you, because it needs Saved itself
  - 2. Jesus is the Shepherd. This is HIS church.
    - a. How many churches have been destroyed by careless hirelings?
    - b. He instructs Peter “feed my sheep” and “feed my lambs”
  - 3. One day we will change membership to that ONE fold (vs. 16)

#### IV. THE POWER

- A. The Good Shepherd will lay down His life
  - 1. He giveth (vs. 11)
  - 2. This is the way that God loved the world, that He GAVE His only...
  - 3. That proves His care and establishes His right
- B. Abundant Life (vs. 10)
  - 1. Not just to preserve life (Saved from Hell)
  - 2. But to IMPART life (have it MORE)
  - 3. Have something additional / exceptional / impossible / beyond fullest!
- C. Lay it down and take it back up again! (vs. 18)
  - 1. No one is making Him do it – No one has power over Him
    - a. Not even DEATH has power over Him
    - b. Nothing could kill Him, and nothing could prevent His resurrection

2. Life is DEFINED by Him
  - a. He was the source of all Light (ch. 9), He is also source of all LIFE
  - b. John 14:6 – “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

## V. THE PROMISE

- A. The Irony
  1. While the Good Shepherd gives abundant life to the sheep
  2. It only came because He gave His life FOR the sheep
- B. He promises
  1. Life and that life more abundantly
  2. Good pasture and still waters
  3. Rest for your soul
  4. Protection from the wolves of this world
  5. Protection for your soul from thieves and robbers
- C. Be saved today – He is the only door of the sheep!