

“I Know My Own” - John 10:7-14, 25-30

Ask - “What does it take to get to know someone well? Give an example.”

Background - After healing the blind man and confronting the Pharisees, Jesus continued teaching in Jerusalem. He spoke to them using the illustration of a shepherd and his sheep. A few months later, at another feast, He followed up on this teaching.

“I Am the Door” - John 10:7-10

(v7-8) Read verses 1-6 for context. How did Jesus describe Himself? What did He mean by this? How did He describe others who came before Him? How did the sheep (believers) regard them?

(v9) What did Jesus emphasize a 2nd time? What was/is His promise to those who find their way through Him?

(v10) What is the goal of the thief? What is Jesus’ motivation? Describe what it means to have abundant life.

JESUS CALLED HIMSELF THE DOOR. HE WAS AND IS THE ONLY WAY FOR CHRISTIANS (SHEEP) TO HAVE AN ABUNDANT LIFE. ALL OTHERS ARE THIEVES AND ROBBERS SET ON DESTRUCTION.

“I Am the Good Shepherd” - John 10:11-14

(v11) How did Jesus describe Himself in this verse? What action disguises a good shepherd? How was this statement prophetic?

(v12-13) How would a hired hand act differently than a shepherd? What would be the result? Why would a hired hand act this way?

(v14) What did Jesus emphasize a 2nd time? What did Jesus say regarding the relationship between He and His sheep? How does this familiarity and intimacy make you feel?

UNLIKE THE HIRED HANDS, JESUS CALLED HIMSELF THE GOOD SHEPHERD. HE LOVED AND LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS SHEEP. HE KNOWS THEM AND THEY KNOW HIM.

“My Sheep Know Me” - John 10:25-30

(v25-26) Read verses 22-24. What did the people want to know? How did Jesus answer and explain their disbelief?

(v27-28) What teaching did Jesus repeat (see v14)? What promise did Jesus make regarding His sheep? How is eternal life different from abundant life?

(v29-30) Who gave these sheep to Jesus? Who can take them from His hand? How does Jesus liken Himself to the Father?

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE PEOPLE DID NOT BELIEVE BECAUSE THEY WEREN'T HIS SHEEP. HE STATED THAT HIS SHEEP FOLLOWED HIM AND FOUND ETERNAL SECURITY AND SALVATION IN HIM.

Application - Jesus used the metaphor of a shepherd and sheep to illustrate His relationship with those who trust in Him unto salvation. Through faith in Him they find abundant and eternal life. He knows His sheep and they know Him as they walk in close relationship with one another. Jesus' sheep can be confident that they are being held securely in God's hand. What part of today's lesson was most meaningful to you and why?