

IF... ANYONE ENTERS BY ME

John 10:1-21

Tags

The Gospel of John, Jesus, John, sheepfold, door, thief, robber, shepherd, sheep, gatekeeper, voice, calls, leads, sheep follow, follow, discipleship, stranger, flee, figure of speech, I AM, I am the door, salvation, saved, pasture, steal, kill, destroy, life, abundant life, I am the good shepherd, hired hand, wolf, snatches, scatters, Father, lay down my life, not of this fold, listen to my voice, one flock, one shepherd, lay down my life, authority, charge, division, Jews, Pharisees, demon, eyes of the blind

Introduction

The shepherd war is raging. The Pharisees who see themselves as the shepherds over God's people have excommunicated a blind beggar because of his belief in Jesus. This lost sheep of Israel was vulnerable, but these leaders are savages and care nothing for him nor do they rejoice over his healing. Instead, they have acted in hostility because of their hatred for Jesus. They are convinced that he is a law-breaker and must be killed.

With Ezekiel 34 in the background, Jesus addresses the conflict head on and renounces these shepherds for what they are—thieves and robbers. God had promised to judge sheep and shepherds alike. God said that he would set up one shepherd king and make a covenant of peace. Jesus is the good shepherd and the door through which one is truly saved. He accomplished this through his sinless life, death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus says, "IF... ANYONE ENTERS BY ME," they will be saved, protected, and satisfied.

Outline

A shepherd's motives matter because character is more important than charisma (v. 1).

Humility and hearing are connected (v. 3).

When grace calls, the best thing you can do is follow (v. 4).

Your Bible is the filter for the voices in your life (v. 5).

Jesus is the only one who can save, protect, and satisfy you (vv. 9-10).

The cross is the demonstration of the good shepherd's love for you (vv. 14-15).

There is one shepherd and one flock because only Jesus gave his life for your salvation (vv. 16-18).

Application

Have you heard Jesus call your name?

Did you go through the door?

Is Jesus your Good Shepherd? If he is, are you following him?

Questions

1. Name places in the Bible where it talks about shepherds or where shepherds played an important role.
2. How does the picture of a shepherd help us understand God's care for us? (Psalm 23)
3. What are some of the voices in your life that you struggle with? How can you focus more on God's voice?
4. How do we experience abundant life now? Why do we normally emphasize quantity instead of quality when it comes to eternal life? Do you think we get it backwards? Why or why not?
5. What are some ways to identify "wolves?" (Acts 20:28-31; Jude 3-4)
6. Who are the sheep not of this fold and what does that have to do with you? What does that mean for local churches?
7. Take time to meditate on the reality that Jesus knows and calls you by name. In what ways does this stir your emotions?