

**GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS AND HIS SHEEP
JOHN 10:11-29**

Introduction

This is our last message from this area of John's Gospel where Jesus speaks of being our **GOOD SHEPHERD** and He speaks about those of us that know Him as **HIS SHEEP!**

This is our last message from this part of this Chapter where we have seen that as Jesus **taught, He used various images of SHEEP, SHEEPFOLDS, and SHEPHERDS to share Biblical truth.** The fact is, that a lot of what he says about **SHEEP,** He says about **HIS SHEEP!**

Now, understand that this is an image that WAS very familiar with those living in Jesus day and time! (Sheep were a normal part of everyday life) But, not many of us have any first hand knowledge of **SHEPHERDS** or their **SHEEP!**

Nevertheless, these symbols that Jesus used **can help us understand our LORD better and OURSELVES better in OUR relationship with HIM!**

So, as we look at these verses today, I want us to take a look at what these verses tell us about **JESUS AND HIS SHEEP!** It's important to know what these characteristics are so that we can not only **know that we are one of Jesus' sheep, but also know the significance of this Shepherd/Sheep relationship we have with Him!**

Before we see what Jesus says about **His sheep and His relationship with His sheep,** we need to understand that the comparison of God's people to **sheep** is a good one! How so? Well, let me give you just three ways...

Sheep are clean animals! (*esp. Compared with that of pigs or dogs*)

Sheep are defenseless and need the care of the Shepherd! (*Cf. Psalm 23*)

Sheep are prone to wander and must often be searched for and brought back to the fold! (*Cf. Luke 15:3-7*)

There are more comparisons that could likely be made, but let's get started in our message for today: **JESUS AND HIS SHEEP**

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- I. WE SEE THAT JESUS KNOWS HIS SHEEP! (10:14, 27)**
The word "**KNOW**" here means **more** than just an **intellectual knowledge or awareness (like knowing ABOUT someone)!**

But rather, it speaks of **an intimate relationship between the LORD and His people (like one you have come to know because of a relationship and having had fellowship with that person).**

Nahum 1:7—"The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him."

Matthew 7:21-23—"21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

*2 Timothy 2:19—"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, **The Lord knoweth them that are his.** And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

The **shepherd** on the hills of Israel **knew each of his sheep personally and therefore he knew best how to take care of them and minister to them and their individual specific needs!**

- A. He Knows The Names Of His Sheep. (10:3)**

I know it is hard for us to understand because we can't tell one **sheep** from another! But did you know that a **Shepherd** can!

In fact, the **Shepherd** gives each **sheep** a name and calls them by name!

In our society many times **we are just a number, not a name.** We are so used to being just another "*one*" of a large crowd!

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In fact the numbers associated with us are often more important to the government and those we are doing business with than our names. And it is getting even more so that way in our computer and technologically driven society!

But to Jesus we aren't a number! We are one of HIS SHEEP who have a name!

B. He Knows The Nature Of His Sheep. (10:14)

While all **sheep** may be alike in their essential **sheep** nature, they each still **have their own distinctive characteristics!** That's true with real **sheep**; that's true with **Jesus' sheep!**

None of Jesus' twelve disciples were the same! Though they may have been similar in some ways, they were each individuals with their own nature—their own characteristics!

Jesus knew each of them personally and knew exactly how to deal with them!

None of us are exactly the same either! Yet, Jesus, our loving **Shepherd**, knows us and our traits and considers our special needs as He tends to us as part of **His flock!**

The very fact that He knows our **natures** means that He knows our **needs** right here, right now! **He knows and He cares!**

Psalm 55:22—“Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Psalm 27:13—“I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.”

1 Peter 5:6-7— 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

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WE SEE THAT JESUS KNOWS HIS SHEEP...

II. WE SEE THAT JESUS IS KNOWN OF HIS SHEEP! (10:14)

It makes sense that as the **SHEPHERD** interacts with and cares for the **SHEEP**, the **SHEEP** come to know their **SHEPHERD** better!

Jesus, the Good **Shepherd**, knows those of us who are **HIS SHEEP**, and those of us who are **HIS SHEEP**, know Him! And we get to know Him better the closer that we draw to Him.

(See Colossians 1:9-11)

2 Peter 3:18—But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

James 4:8—“Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you.”

Psalm 145:18—“The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.”

The more that we hear our **Shepherd's voice** (via: **the Word of God**) the better we come to know Him! The more we experience our Shepherd's daily care, the better we come to know Him! (*Psalm 23*)

III. WE SEE THAT JESUS SPEAKS OF ONE FOLD OF SHEEP THAT WOULD BE UNIFIED FROM TWO DIFFERENT FOLDS! (10:16)

Let me explain this. The first **“sheepfold”** that Jesus is talking about to begin with are those of **Judaism** who are following Him! **The Jews that have heard His voice and have believed on Him!**

The religious Jews who clung to their traditions refused to hear Jesus! (Vs 24-25)

Then Jesus speaks here of **other sheep , which are not of this fold**. In other words, they are not Jews, which means that they are Gentiles! **Gentiles are those who are outside of the covenants of Israel!**

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Now understand that this is one of the verses that the Mormon cult uses to try to make their case of being a legitimate Christian organization and to try to get folks to listen to them!

Their Book of Mormon presents Jesus giving an extended comment on that statement in a speech to the Nephites that shows them to be the **“other sheep”**. If you need a further explanation of why this is not true I’ll be happy to show you, but I will simply say this, there were no Nephites that Jesus appeared to. And the Book of Mormon is not the Word of God but rather a book of a man written by the founder of the cult, Joseph Smith!

Back to the Gentiles and what the Scripture says about them being part of JESUS SHEEP!

A. Let’s See Where This Was Prophesied!

Back in **Genesis 12:3**, the LORD told Abraham ...
“in thee shall ALL the families of the earth be blessed.”

(Isaiah 42:1, 6-7 Cf. Matthew 12:15-21; Isaiah 49:6; 60:1-3)

Then, in the N.T. when Jesus eight days old, He was brought to the Temple for His circumcision. Let’s look at **Luke 2:30-32** and see what Simeon prophesied that Jesus would be!

B. Let’s See Where This Was Stated By Jesus!

When we look at our Lord’s early ministry, Scripture says that He concentrated on the **“lost sheep of the house of Israel”**
(Matthew 10:5-6, 15:24-27)

Nevertheless, there were some Gentiles who believed on Him and were positively affected by Jesus’ earthly ministry!
(e.g. The centurion who besought Jesus to heal his servant.)

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Also, Jesus stated that the Gospel was for the world!

In his conversation with Nicodemus.

John 3:16–“For God so loved the World...whosoever...”

Then after His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and gave them what we know as **The Great Commission!**

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mark 16:15–And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Acts 1:8 – “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

C. Let’s See Where This Was Obeyed!

1. We Know Peter Took The Gospel To The Gentiles (i.e. Cornelius! Acts 10, 11)
Peter had internal conflict about doing it! (Acts 10)

Peter had external conflict after doing it! (Acts 11)

2. We Know That The Apostle Paul Carried The Gospel Message To Both The Jews And Then To The Gentiles! (Acts 13:1ff)

Romans 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

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3. Now, Let's Also See What Paul Had To Say About The Jews And The Gentiles Becoming One In Christ! (*Ephesians 2:11-22!*)

D. Let's Think About What This Means!

There is but *“one flock”*, the people of God who come to belong to the Good Shepherd by grace through faith in Him!

JESUS KNOWS HIS SHEEP...JESUS IS KNOWN OF HIS SHEEP...
JESUS SHEEP ARE MADE UP OF BOTH JEW AND GENTILE BELIEVERS...

IV. WE SEE WHO JESUS' SHEEP ARE! (*10:4, 22-27*)

Those who **hear and respond to the Gospel by believing it** and in so doing they follow Jesus!

A. Jesus Is The Door Of The Sheep! (*Vs 9*)

B. Jesus' Sheep Are Those Who Hear The Voice Of Jesus And Follow Him!

Do we have the voice of Jesus today? Yes we do! The Word!
Jesus is still speaking! The LORD is still calling for folks to believe on Him!

Some hear His voice and believe on Him and are HIS SHEEP!
Some continually refuse His voice and are NOT HIS SHEEP!

Conclusion

Which group are you in this morning?

2 Corinthians 6:2 – “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”

If you haven't already, believe on the LORD Jesus Christ today!