

John 33 - Who is Your Shepherd?

Dr. Leon L. Sanders
John 10:1-21

Preparing to Conquer Death

- Jesus describes His relationship with those who are called to salvation; extraordinary concept of Oneness
- Jesus' simile as the Shepherd and the called as His sheep would have been easily understood; then
- He referenced His previous miracle - Blind to see
- He looks ahead to Lazarus

Temporary Sheepfold

- During warm months the shepherd would have built a crude sheepfold to keep the sheep contained at night: thorn bushes, etc.
- He would sleep across the opening keeping sheep in and predators out



This made the man both the shepherd and the door

Permanent Sheepfold

- During winter months stone sheepfold would shelter the various herds
- Gatekeeper controlled the door, opening only to the Good Shepherd
- Each flock follows only their shepherd's voice



Understanding Shepherds

- Facts about shepherds you should understand
 - Shepherds were very low on the social scale
 - They smelled of sheep and hygiene low being outdoors
 - Shepherds often were hirelings for wealthy owners
 - Shepherds were personally accountable for all lost sheep
- Jesus comparing Himself to a Shepherd emphasized His humility and societal rejection by the religious

Two Statements of Fact

- Jesus makes two amen, amen (ἀμήν, ἀμήν) statements of absolute fact
 - Two contrasting truths illustrate two types of people the sheep (believers) will encounter: True and false teachers
 - Jesus clearly differentiates between Himself and most authority figures of Judaism: Civil and religious
 - This also applies today: Christianity and Christendom

Law of Excluded Middle: Only True or False Teachers

Thieves and Robbers

- The first amen (ἀμήν) statement highlights those who do not enter by the door: False shepherds (Teachers)
 - They do not teach God's Gospel but their own customs and traditions (Talmudic): Lies justifying works
 - They do not come by the door as they cannot pass the scrutiny of the gatekeeper who only opens to truth
 - Gatekeeper knows the Good Shepherd opening the door to Him: Judaism, as Christianity: tainted with lies

The Permanent Sheepfold

- Jesus depicts a permanent sheepfold whose door is guarded by the gatekeeper, the Holy Spirit, the other agent of the Trinity and Christ's ministry (John 1:47)
 - Holy Spirit is our seal and guarantee of salvation (Eph 1:13-14)
 - Holy Spirit rejects false teachers (Lucifer) who seek to access the sheep preventing their salvation
 - Lucifer does access the goats, often kept with the sheep to lead the sheep astray by majority rule (Democracy)

Each convert weakens Lucifer's defense that God is author of evil.

Hearing the Call

- Those whom Christ has elected from eternity past hear His voice responding only to His call of salvation (Eph 1:3-14)
 - Though sinners they await Jesus' call to salvation
 - When called they hear His voice, they follow: Abba
 - Voice of the false teacher is rejected: false gospel (Lies)
- They may wander in false doctrine until called; but, when called, they follow Christ (Path of each saved)

Understand the Simile

- Jesus speaks to Jews who miss the simile's truth; thus, Christ restates the simile this time using the temporary sheepfold analogy to enlighten them beginning with another amen (ἀμήν) statement of truth
 - He is the Door (Shepherd and Door are same person)
 - Axial Age birth of false doctrines imitates His truth
 - Sheep do not stay in them as they have been sealed
(Ep 1:11, Re 7:3)

Jesus was both the shepherd and the door

M. O. of False Teachers

- Jesus reinforces Lucifer and his followers are always liars and murders (Jo 8:44-47; 1Pe 2:1-3)
 - False teachers molest the flock keeping them from life
 - They entice via destructive heresies based on sensualities blaspheming Christ's truth (Counterfeit Gospel)
 - They reveal themselves to be false teachers: Reject Christ
 - Their destruction was prepared from long age (Re 19:20, 20:9-10)

Christ Foretells His Death

- Christ openly references His coming death for His own
 - The Good Shepherd dies for the Sheep
 - Christ will die on stauros at the hands of false teachers securing life for His sheep
 - Mark of Christ vs mark of Cain (Sinners - Lucifer)
(Ge 4:15-16)
- False teachers come to ravage the flock; i.e., have the flock die for them - Mark of the False Teacher

False Teachers are Predators

- Lucifer and his own frequently pictured as predators
 - Lucifer depicted as roaring lion: devour the proud (1Th 5:8)
 - False teachers depicted here as wolves seeking to devour
- Their methodologies follow the same trajectory (Jude 5:8)
 - Defile the flesh - Destroy the individual
 - Reject authority - Rebellion that leads to violence
 - Blaspheme Trinity and Saints (Holy Ones) - No hope

Hirelings Flee to Save Themselves

- Hirelings have no *skin in the game*; i.e., do not own the sheep and will not die for the sheep
 - These are the pastors, teachers and deacons using the church to promote themselves at the expense of sheep
 - When adversity comes they desert allowing false doctrines to enter and ravage the truth of Christ
 - True sheep ignore the blasphemy, running from the hirelings and false teachers

Christ and Father are One

- Unity of Father-Son-Believer common theme (Jh 11:27)
 - Sheep know Christ
 - Christ knows the sheep
 - Just as the Father knows Christ
 - Christ knows the Father
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| | <u>Difference in Oneness</u> |
| | Gospel promotes individuality in Christ and the Spirit (One) |
| | Sin equalizes to sameness (one) destroying individuality: |
| | Socialism |
- This relationship intimately links believers to the Father via Christ and vice versa: Christ is the mediator (1Ti 2:5:6)
 - World rejects: Father and Son - World glorifies: Mother and Child

Christ Alludes to Gentiles

- Christ states He has sheep not of this sheepfold [Jews]
 - Reference to non-Jews (Gentiles) (Mt 16:15-19)
 - Jews believed God's salvation pertained *only* to them
 - Gentiles would be allowed to serve Jews, as second class citizens *if* they kept the Law (Talmudic Judaism)
 - This plagued the early Church though the Jerusalem Conference refuted this heresy (Ac 15:1-31)

Christ Given Authority

- Christ makes the statement He has the authority from the Father to lay down His life and to take it up again (De 3:5; Ga 4:4-7)
 - No one kills Christ except as He allows for His sheep
 - This is His mandate from the Father which He accepted
 - Paying the penalty for sin secures life for His sheep
 - This is the lie Lucifer used to hide the truth from Eve

The knowledge that makes one gods reference to people being adopted sons of God

Now Jews Understood Simile

- This was the clearest declaration Christ made about Himself and His purpose
 - Jews rejected His purpose using the excuse that He had a demon (We would call Him mentally ill today)
 - They could not refute the message so they attacked the messenger (Ad hominem logical fallacy)
 - By urging others to reject Christ they reveal themselves as the wolves, false teachers, of Christ's simile

Payoff to Blind Man's Healing

- Others who heard Christ speak rejected the demonic (insanity) charge
 - They based their rejection on the clear fact of Jesus' previous healing of the man born blind
 - Using the healed man's reasoning they understood God would not listen to anyone who had a demon; ergo, God heard Him, He healed, therefore, He speaks truth

Wolves Do Not Pretend to be Sheep

- False teachers, ravenous wolves, do not masquerade as sheep; i.e., as wolves wearing sheep's skin OM 7:15-20
 - This silly metaphor means what John says in this passage
 - False teachers wear shepherd's clothing pretending to be the *true* shepherd to deceive the gullible
 - His sheep can fall prey to these until called by Him

Apostate Churches

- Churches have allowed false teachers to enter expounding their false, blasphemous doctrines
 - Oft appear as scientism: psychology; sociology; etc.
 - Mix with Bible to clothe their lies in man's *respectability*
 - Progression toward blasphemy detailed in Revelations' letters to the churches OM 2:3
 - All false doctrines have one goal: Deny Christ & Gospel (1 Jo 4:1-3; Jude 4)