

John 10:1-10

False Shepherds

1) Interpretive Details

- a) Not a Parable or Allegory
- b) Imagery
 - 1. Sheep
 - 2. Shepherd
 - 3. Thieves
 - 4. Sheepfold
 - 5. Gatekeeper

2) False Shepherds

- a) Reality
- b) Character & Fruits
 - 1. Unauthorized – v. 1,3
 - 2. Takers – v. 1,8,10
 - 3. Counterfeit Teaching – v. 5
 - 4. Personally Blind – v. 6
 - 5. Unfollowed – v. 5,8
 - 6. Destroy Lives – v. 10
- c) Identity
- d) Contrast

Praxis

1. What are some of the familiar images, songs, Bible verses, church terminology that speak of the Shepherd / Sheep relationship? What are some misconceptions that people naturally come to regarding this imagery?
2. How might you unintentionally “authorize” shepherds for yourself? How ought you to “authorize” those who give you spiritual / practical direction?
3. Thought Question: Is the “abundant life” (Jn 10:10) Jesus came to give His sheep only for some Christians or all Christians? What does such abundance entail? What might inhibit or enhance one’s participation in it?