

**The Good Shepherd**  
**John 10:1-18**  
**Sermon Outline**

**Introduction:** When Jesus calls himself “the door” he is saying that no person claiming spiritual authority legitimately wields that authority unless Jesus’ voice can be clearly heard in his or hers. Why should we believe this?

**I) Because Jesus’ voice has universal appeal**

People of all backgrounds recognize and respond to his voice.

A) **Vv. 3b, 5, 14** *I know my own and my own know me...I have other sheep, not of this fold...*

Jesus has enjoyed through the centuries an enormous cross-cultural following.

Why?

**B) Have you heard Jesus’ voice?**

- *Follow me*
- *I know you...and I love you*

**II) Because Jesus leads us to a good place**

*v. 10: The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I come that you may have life and have it abundantly*

A) **The place Jesus leads us:** *abundance*

*Psalm 23*

Living, growing, eternally safe relationship with God

**B) The place false shepherds lead us**

They rob us. They leave us torn to pieces.

1) Outside the church

2) Inside the church

How will you decide what church to go to when you leave NYC?

The voice of Jesus constantly being heard in the preacher and the church

### III) Because Jesus laid down his life

v. 11, 17: *I am the good (beautiful, noble) shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep...No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord*

### Gandalf and the Balrog

### Jesus and the wolves

### Jesus chose this

**Conclusion:** Why say, “No,” to someone who gives us so much and who loves us so well?

### Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) By calling himself the “door of the sheep” Jesus seems to be saying this: “No person claiming spiritual authority (a parent, a TV guru, a Bible study leader, a Sunday school teacher, a religious leader in any tradition, a preacher) legitimately wields that authority unless he or she comes to their “sheep” through me.” This means that legitimate spiritual authority is not present unless Jesus’ voice can be clearly heard through the voice of that leader. Do you agree that this is what Jesus is saying? If not, why not? If so, what do you make of this claim?
- 2) Over the past 2000 years, love for Jesus has sprung up in every culture world-wide. And this has happened without Christianity becoming mono-cultural. Asian Christians, in other words, feel a deep bond with African Christians without the Asians having to become culturally African or vice versa. How do you explain this? How do you explain it in the light of what Jesus says in this passage about himself?
- 3) Jesus says that his sheep “hear his voice” and flee from the voices of those who are not their true shepherd. What does he mean by this? Has this been your experience? What does it mean for you to hear the voice of Jesus?
- 4) When Jesus promises to give us life more abundantly (vs. 10) what does he mean? Discuss his promise in the light of the great Shepherd Psalm (23):

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

- 5) Jesus says that false shepherds steal from us the good things that God intends and leave us to be torn apart by the enemies of our soul. Define “false shepherd” as any voice, other than Christ, to which you might entrust your life. Talk about what some of the false shepherds of our time are and how they tend to rob us of life and tear us apart.
- 6) Discuss the following statement: “A church that is Bible based can be as dangerous to the soul as a church that shows little interest in the Bible. After all, the people with whom Jesus was disputing here were Bible-based.” How is this so? Have you experienced it?
- 7) Think about the following statement and then spend some time giving the Lord thanks for laying his life down for you: “It the cross Jesus refused to behave like a hired hand. He refused to let the wolves get past him to devour the sheep. Instead, he let them tear him apart—our guilt and sin, and the punishment for our crimes—violently devoured him.”