

John Chapter Ten

Read **John 10:1-6** – The Shepherd

The two parables presented here by Jesus are frequently combined as one in the teaching of this chapter of John. However, we not only have two parables; some commentators, especially David Lipscomb in his commentary, contend that they were probably spoken at different times during the same teaching session. The first concludes with verse 6 and presents Jesus as the Good Shepherd, the second is included in verses 7 through 10 and presents Jesus as the “door” or the entry way into God’s sheep fold.

v.1 “VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, HE THAT ENTERETH NOT BY THE DOOR INTO THE SHEEPFOLD, BUT CLIMBETH UP SOME OTHER WAY, THE SAME IS A THIEF AND A ROBBER.”

The shepherds of Palestine, in the keeping of flocks of sheep during this period of time, would each care for his own flock during the day. At night, more commonly in inclement weather or winter the different flocks would be gathered into a common fold or holding place. A porter or guard was then placed at the door, or opening, of the sheepfold to protect the various flocks and to keep any from straying from the fold and to protect their animals from thieves.

When the shepherd was ready to take his sheep back out to graze he would come to the door of the sheepfold, to the porter, and recover his sheep. If someone wanted to steal the sheep they would then have to find another way into the sheepfold. Jesus characterizes them here as thieves and robbers because they would try to sneak in somehow other than going through the door. In the church, God’s sheepfold, the false shepherds, false teachers, false brethren will try to enter in by some means other than through the door, that is through Jesus Christ.

v.2 “BUT HE THAT ENTERETH IN BY THE DOOR IS THE SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP.”

Prior to the coming of Christ, that “DOOR” was those prophecies that pointed toward the coming of Christ. All of those signs that would help men understand that the one who fulfilled them was the true son of God, the true shepherd. Any other man, who did not fulfill the prophecies given by God for the Jews and the world to be able to recognize the Messiah, were those that crept in another way. They were false christs, false prophets, that arose, many during the period of time between the Testaments.

John Chapter Ten

v.3 "TO HIM THE PORTER OPENETH; AND THE SHEEP HEAR HIS VOICE AND HE CALLETH HIS OWN SHEEP BY NAME, AND LEADETH THEM OUT."

Three things we should observe from this verse. First of all the porter or gatekeeper recognizes the shepherds who have their flocks under his care. Who was the porter or gatekeeper for the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ? John the Immerser:

John 1:29-30 "THE NEXT DAY JOHN SEETH JESUS COMING UNTO HIM, AND SAITH, BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD. THIS IS HE OF WHOM I SAID, AFTER ME COMETH A MAN WHICH IS PREFERRED BEFORE ME: FOR HE WAS BEFORE ME."

Secondly we see that the sheep "HEAR HIS VOICE", the voice of the shepherd, Jesus Christ. What about those who hear other voices? They follow false shepherds, false teachers. They are like the brethren at Galatia to whom Paul wrote:

Galatians 1:6-7 "I MARVEL THAT YE ARE SO SOON REMOVED FROM HIM THAT CALLED YOU INTO THE GRACE OF CHRIST UNTO ANOTHER GOSPEL: WHICH IS NOT ANOTHER; BUT THERE BE SOME THAT TROUBLE YOU, AND WOULD PERVERT THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST."

Thirdly "HE CALLETH HIS OWN SHEEP BY NAME". It was a common practice in the Middle East for a shepherd, to not only know his sheep by sight, but to give them names. That shouldn't be a strange practice to us if we ever lived on a small farm. On the farm where I grew up all of the brood animals, those that were kept year after year had names. The Good Shepherd knows his sheep by their names, if we are indeed his sheep; He knows you and I by our names. That is a reassuring thought isn't it, our saviour knows us by name.

v.4 "AND WHEN HE PUTTETH FORTH HIS OWN SHEEP, HE GOETH BEFORE THEM, AND THE SHEEP FOLLOW HIM: FOR THEY KNOW HIS VOICE."

So when the shepherd has put "FORTH" his own sheep, separated them from the flocks of the other shepherds He doesn't drive them. In the east, where shepherds tend small flocks the same custom prevails even up until today. The sheep are led with the shepherd walking in front, occasionally calling to them and they follow him obediently. They know the shepherds voice.

John Chapter Ten

v.5 “AND A STRANGER WILL THEY NOT FOLLOW, BUT WILL FLEE FROM HIM: FOR THEY KNOW NOT THE VOICE OF STRANGERS.”

This is true of sheep. They will not follow one who is a stranger to them, they will run and scatter every time. We as members of God's sheepfold, the church, should treat those who are “STRANGERS” who do not speak with the words of the voice of the “SHEPHERD” the same way. Those who do not come through the door of the sheepfold as we shall see in the next few verses are thieves and robbers coming only to steal and destroy. They come to steal our souls away from God.

v.6 “THIS PARABLE SPAKE JESUS UNTO THEM: BUT THEY UNDERSTOOD NOT WHAT THINGS THEY WERE WHICH HE SPAKE UNTO THEM.”

This was a completed parable. The people didn't understand it, couldn't make the application that we make today, partly because the revelation of God's will was not complete or recorded as we have it today. They also did not understand and many apparently did not believe all those who had gone before Jesus and prophesied concerning his coming.

Read **John 10:7-18** – The Good Shepherd vs the Hireling

v.7 “THEN SAID JESUS UNTO THEM AGAIN, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, I AM THE DOOR TO THE SHEEP.”

Now Jesus brings us another parable to help us understand how sheep enter the sheepfold. Of course, we understand that the sheepfold is a parallel for the church, the kingdom of God. The entrance to the sheepfold is through the door or gate, the entrance to the church or kingdom of God is through Jesus Christ and only through Him.

John 14:6 “JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE: NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME.”

And there is only one way to come to “THE FATHER” through Christ:

Galatians 3:27 “FOR AS MANY OF YOU AS HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST HAVE PUT ON CHRIST.”

John Chapter Ten

v.8 “ALL THAT EVER CAME BEFORE ME ARE THIEVES AND ROBBERS: BUT THE SHEEP DID NOT HEAR THEM.”

As we saw in the period between the Testaments and as we read in the New Testament; there were men who arose before the day of the Lord came and claimed to be the Messiah that God had promised. Jesus said that all of these false christs were thieves and robbers. The sheep didn't hear them, they came to nothing, they and their followers were brought to a bloody end. As Gamaliel testified before the Sanhedrin:

Acts 5:36-37 “FOR BEFORE THESE DAYS ROSE UP THEUDAS, BOASTING HIMSELF TO BE SOMEBODY; TO WHOM A NUMBER OF MEN, ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED, JOINED THEMSELVES: WHO WAS SLAIN; AND ALL, AS MANY AS OBEYED HIM, WERE SCATTERED AND BROUGHT TO NOUGHT. AFTER THIS MAN ROSE UP JUDAS OF GALILEE IN THE DAYS OF THE TAXING, AND DREW AWAY MUCH PEOPLE AFTER HIM: HE ALSO PERISHED: AND ALL, *even* AS MANY AS OBEYED HIM, WERE DISPERSED.”

Those who came to Christ were truly sheep, those who followed the false messiah's, the rebels who rose up at various times were like goats. Goats like those Jesus described in **Matthew 24:32-33** when he tells of separating the sheep from the goats in judgment.

v.9 “I AM THE DOOR: BY ME IF ANY MAN SHALL ENTER IN, HE SHALL BE SAVED, AND SHALL GO IN AND OUT, AND FIND PASTURE.”

If any enter into God's sheepfold, he will be protected; he will be saved from sin and the agents of Satan who prey on them. A good shepherd leads his physical sheep into the fold for protection at night and then to the pasture for sustenance during the day. We as spiritual sheep of God enjoy the same blessings spiritually speaking. Even as David recorded in what is probably man's favorite Psalm:

Psalms 23:1 “THE **LORD** *is* MY SHEPHERD; I SHALL NOT WANT.”

David continues that the LORD provides for his sheep, “GREEN PASTURES”, “STILL WATERS”, restoration for his soul, He leads him “IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”, he would “FEAR NO EVIL”, his “CUP RUNNETH OVER”, he would enjoy “GOODNESS AND MERCY”, he would “DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE **LORD** FOR EVER.”

John Chapter Ten

This is a beautiful description of the condition of the true sons of God, living their lives in Christ.

v.10 “THE THIEF COMETH NOT, BUT FOR TO STEAL, AND TO KILL, AND TO DESTROY: I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE *it* MORE ABUNDANTLY.”

A false christ, a thief comes only for selfish purposes and will kill and destroy if necessary. Those who do not enter the church or kingdom of God by Jesus Christ, by the door, come for these purposes: to prey on the flock, to destroy it, to satisfy their pride and ambition, and to steal the substance of the flock. Meanwhile they destroy the spiritual life of the flock, leading it away from God, filling it with false doctrines and destroying men’s faith in God.

But Jesus came that we might “HAVE LIFE” and “HAVE *it* MORE ABUNDANTLY.”

John 14:6 “JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE: NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME.”

Again bringing us those spiritual blessings as John testifies earlier in this book:

John 1:14 “AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, AND DWELT AMONG US, (AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF THE FATHER) FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.”

v.11 “I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD: THE GOOD SHEPHERD GIVETH [lays down] HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.”

Jesus did indeed give or lay down his life for us, his sheep; redeeming us from our sin through his own blood.

Hebrews 13:20 “NOW THE GOD OF PEACE, THAT BROUGHT AGAIN FROM THE DEAD OUR LORD JESUS, THAT GREAT SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP, THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE EVERLASTING COVENANT.”

A fact “RECEIVED” by the Apostle Paul and “DELIVERED” as part of his preaching of the gospel of Christ. **I Corinthians 15:3**

John Chapter Ten

v.12 “BUT HE THAT IS AN HIRELING, AND NOT THE SHEPHERD, WHOSE OWN THE SHEEP ARE NOT, SEETH THE WOLF COMING, AND LEAVETH THE SHEEP, AND FLEETH: AND THE WOLF CATCHETH THEM, AND SCATTERETH THE SHEEP.”

What is a hireling? Free On-line Dictionary “one who works solely for compensation”, Merriam-Webster; “a person who serves for hire especially for purely mercenary motives.” This is perhaps a little broad. Jesus condemns the hireling but encourages his disciples as he sends them out to preach:

Luke 10:7 “AND IN THE SAME HOUSE REMAIN, EATING AND DRINKING SUCH THINGS AS THEY GIVE: FOR THE LABOURER IS WORTHY OF HIS HIRE. GO NOT FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE.”

The Holy Spirit also through Paul gives us this, quoting from **Deuteronomy 25:4** and paraphrasing part of **Leviticus 19:13**:

I Timothy 5:18 “FOR THE SCRIPTURE SAITH, THOU SHALT NOT MUZZLE THE OX THAT TREADETH OUT THE CORN. AND, THE LABOURER *is* WORTHY OF HIS REWARD.”

So what is the difference between the hireling and the laborer who is worthy? Their attitude toward their work, their commitment to do a job well and their loyalty to their employer. Jesus confirms that in the next verse.

v.13 “THE HIRELING FLEETH, BECAUSE HE IS AN HIRELING, AND CARETH NOT FOR THE SHEEP.”

The hireling, whose labor is mercenary, who works simply for the wages he can receive, will not stand in the face of trouble, or difficulty. When the going get tough he disappears. In fact the prophet Isaiah records that the hireling will usually last only a specific length of time in any one place of responsibility:

Isaiah 16:14 “BUT NOW THE LORD HATH SPOKEN, SAYING, WITHIN THREE YEARS, AS THE YEARS OF AN HIRELING, AND THE GLORY OF MOAB SHALL BE CONDEMNED, WITH ALL THAT GREAT MULTITUDE; AND THE REMNANT *shall be* VERY SMALL *and* FEEBLE.”

John Chapter Ten

Now Isaiah is talking about Moab but uses the expression “YEARS OF AN HIRELING” and giving the “YEARS OF AN HIRELING as being three in number and they will move on. They are neither loyal nor steadfast. By the same measure several preachers that I know are usually good for about 5 years and then they move on.

v.14 “I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD, AND KNOW MY *sheep*, AND AM KNOWN OF MINE.”

Earlier we noted that the “GOOD SHEPHERD”, knows his sheep by name; here he repeats the assurance that He indeed does know His sheep. Paul wrote to Timothy that this is the seal of the foundation of our relationship with God:

II 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 THE CHRIST DEPART FROM INIQUITY.”

v.15 “AS THE FATHER KNOWETH ME, EVEN SO KNOW I THE FATHER: AND I LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.”

In our study of the Gospel of John we see Jesus refer frequently to the close relationship between Himself and Jehovah God. We also find these words from Jesus in his earlier teaching recorded by Matthew:

Matthew 11:27 “ALL THINGS ARE DELIVERED UNTO ME OF MY FATHER: AND NO MAN KNOWETH THE SON, BUT THE FATHER; NEITHER KNOWETH ANY MAN THE FATHER, SAVE THE SON, AND *he* TO WHOMSOEVER THE SON WILL REVEAL *him*.”

The Jesus declares that He would lay down his life for His sheep and the Holy Spirit reminds us that there is no greater love than this:

John 15:13 “GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.”

v.16 “AND OTHER SHEEP I HAVE, WHICH ARE NOT OF THIS FOLD: THEM ALSO I MUST BRING, AND THEY SHALL HEAR MY VOICE; AND THERE SHALL BE ONE FOLD *and* ONE SHEPHERD.”

John Chapter Ten

“OTHER SHEEP I HAVE, WHICH ARE NOT OF THIS FOLD”; is this an indication that there will be other people saved that are not in the sheepfold of God, the church of the living God? Some of our denominational friends and some of our denominational minded brethren would have us believe such. But what is he talking about? He’s talking about people in general not some man made church. On the way to destroy Sodom the Lord asked this question:

Genesis 18:17-18 “AND THE **LORD** SAID, SHALL I HIDE FROM ABRAHAM THAT THING WHICH I DO; SEEING THAT ABRAHAM SHALL SURELY BECOME A GREAT AND MIGHTY NATION, AND ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED IN HIM?”

“ALL NATIONS...SHALL BE BLESSED” in Abraham. As we have studied in several of the prophets, that means “ALL NATIONS”. The prophet Isaiah declares that he will gather the “OUTCASTS OF ISRAEL” and then he records of the Holy Spirit, something else:

Isaiah 56:8 “THE LORD GOD WHICH GATHERETH THE OUTCASTS OF ISRAEL SAITH, YET WILL I GATHER **others** TO HIM, BESIDE THOSE THAT ARE GATHERED UNTO HIM.”

When we studied the minor prophets we saw this:

Hosea 2:23 “AND I WILL SOW HER UNTO ME IN THE EARTH; AND I WILL HAVE MERCY UPON HER THAT HAD NOT OBTAINED MERCY; AND I WILL SAY TO **them which were** NOT MY PEOPLE, THOU **art** MY PEOPLE; AND THEY SHALL SAY, Thou **art** MY GOD.”

Malachi 1:11 “FOR FROM THE RISING OF THE SUN EVEN UNTO THE GOING DOWN OF THE SAME MY NAME **shall be** GREAT AMONG THE GENTILES; AND IN EVERY PLACE INCENSE **shall be** [is] OFFERED UNTO MY NAME, AND A PURE OFFERING: FOR MY NAME **shall be** GREAT AMONG THE HEATHEN, SAITH THE LORD.”

v.17 “THEREFORE DOTH MY FATHER LOVE ME, BECAUSE I LAY DOWN MY LIFE, THAT I MIGHT TAKE IT AGAIN.”

Because Jesus is the “GOOD SHEPHERD” there are three things that Jesus declares in this verse: first of all that the Father, Jehovah God, loves him: God, himself, made that fact very clear on the mount of transfiguration:

John Chapter Ten

Matthew 17:5 “WHILE HE YET SPAKE, BEHOLD, A BRIGHT CLOUD OVERSHADOWED THEM: AND BEHOLD A VOICE OUT OF THE CLOUD, WHICH SAID, THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASSED; HEAR HE HIM.”

Secondly that he is willing to lay down his life for his sheep. Paul writes:

Galatians 1:4 “WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR OUR SINS, THAT HE MIGHT DELIVER US FROM THIS PRESENT EVIL WORLD, ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD AND OUR FATHER.”

Thirdly, part of the purpose for giving up his physical life was to provide the guarantee, the underlying warranty of our faith:

I Peter 1:3 “BLESSED *be* THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHICH ACCORDING TO HIS ABUNDANT MERCY HATH BEGOTTEN US AGAIN UNTO A LIVELY HOPE BY THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD.”

v.18 “NO MAN TAKETH IT FROM ME, BUT I LAY IT DOWN OF MYSELF, I HAVE THE POWER TO LAY IT DOWN, AND I HAVE POWER TO TAKE IT AGAIN. THIS COMMANDMENT HAVE I RECEIVED OF MY FATHER.”

If it had not been God's purpose man could never have crucified and killed the Son of God. In fact the apostle Paul tells us that this event was planned before time began:

II Timothy 1:9 “WHO HATH SAVED US, AND CALLED *us* WITH A HOLY CALLING, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE, WHICH WAS GIVEN US IN CHRIST JESUS BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN.”

Jesus not only had the power to prevent his death, He told Pilate that if his kingdom was of this world then “WOULD MY SERVANTS FIGHT”, (**John 18:36**) he also had the power to “TAKE IT AGAIN”, the power to resurrect, return the spirit to the physical body as he did with Lazarus:

John Chapter Ten

John 12:1-2 “THEN JESUS SIX DAYS BEFORE THE PASSOVER CAME TO BETHANY, WHERE LAZARUS WAS WHICH HAD BEEN DEAD, WHOM HE RAISED FROM THE DEAD. THERE THEY MADE HIM A SUPPER; AND MARTHA SERVED: BUT LAZARUS WAS ONE OF THEM THAT SAT AT THE TABLE WITH HIM.”

The commandment to give his life had come from God and Christ was to obey it just as he did all of God's words and commandments. This was Jesus' total purpose as he taught his apostles:

John 6:38 “FOR I CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, NOT TO DO MINE OWN WILL, BUT THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME.”

Read **John 10:19-21** – Division Among His Hearers

v.19 “THERE WAS A DIVISION THEREFORE AGAIN AMONG THE JEWS FOR THESE SAYINGS.”

Again of the many that heard him speak, some believed and some refused and rejected him. This was a common occurrence that we have read about before in the same book:

John 7:43 “SO THERE WAS A DIVISION AMONG THE PEOPLE BECAUSE OF HIM.”

John 9:16 “THEREFORE SAID SOME OF THE PHARISEES, THIS MAN IS NOT OF GOD, BECAUSE HE KEEPETH NOT THE SABBATH DAY. OTHERS SAID, HOW CAN A MAN THAT IS A SINNER DO SUCH MIRACLES? AND THERE WAS A DIVISION AMONG THEM.”

v.20 “AND MANY OF THEM SAID, HE HATH A DEVIL, AND IS MAD; WHY HEAR YE HIM.”

Again he is accused also of being possessed. Just as they had also done before:

John 7:20 “THE PEOPLE ANSWERED AND SAID, THOU HAST A DEVIL: WHO GOETH ABOUT TO KILL THEE?”

John Chapter Ten

John 8:52 “THEN SAID THE JEWS UNTO HIM, NOW WE KNOW THAT THOU HAST A DEVIL. ABRAHAM IS DEAD, AND THE PROPHETS; AND THOU SAYEST, IF A MAN KEEP MY SAYING, HE SHALL NEVER TASTE OF DEATH.”

v.21 “OTHERS SAID, THESE ARE NOT THE WORDS OF HIM THAT HATH A DEVIL. CAN A DEVIL OPEN THE EYES OF THE BLIND?”

Perhaps they even remembered that the Psalmist had declared:

Psalms 146:8 “THE LORD OPENETH *the eyes of* THE BLIND: THE LORD RAISETH THEM THAT ARE BOWED DOWN: THE LORD LOVETH THE RIGHTOUS.”

Regardless of whether they remember the Psalm or not, just as they had on an earlier occasion, they recognized that his miracles confirmed the source of his power:

John 9:32-33 “SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN WAS IT NOT HEARD THAT ANY MAN OPENED THE EYES OF ONE THAT WAS BORN BLIND. IF THIS MAN WERE NOT OF GOD HE COULD DO NOTHING.”

Read **John 10:22-30** – At the Feast of the Dedication

v.22 “AND IT WAS AT JERUSALEM THE FEAST OF THE DEDICATION, AND IT WAS WINTER.”

What was/is the “FEAST OF THE DEDICATION”? Was it ordained of God as part of the Law of Moses? Is it carried on today and if so what is its modern name?

The “FEAST OF THE DEDICATION” was a feast instituted during the rule of the Macabees, during the time between the Testaments. It celebrated the overthrow of the Antiochus IV or Antiochus Epiphanes and the cleansing and rededication of the temple.

Since it was instituted by the Jews after the Old Testament record was closed it could not have been a feast commanded by God under the Mosaic Law. It has its origin in the First book of the Macabees, not as part of inspired scripture. What they were celebrating at this feast was the supposedly miraculous defeat of Epiphanes by Judah Macabee and a small army of rebels. It was like the feast days and special observances that have been added by men under the denominations today.

John Chapter Ten

This feast does continue in the Jewish religion today as Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. There was an additional “miracle” that was supposed to have occurred and is celebrated as part of the same feast. When the temple was cleansed and readied for rededication there was only enough oil that had been sanctified available to maintain the eternal flame designating the presence of God for one day. The rest had been contaminated by the Greeks. But they proceeded to light the flame anyway and the one day supply of oil burned for eight consecutive nights without wavering.

v.23 “AND JESUS WALKED IN THE TEMPLE IN SOLOMON’S PORCH.”

You may remember from an earlier lesson this schematic of the temple area. (view picture) Solomon’s porch was in the court of the Gentiles, an area where anyone could go and not be in conflict with the temple police, or profane the temple of God.

v.24 “THEN CAME THE JEWS ROUND ABOUT HIM, AND SAID UNTO HIM, HOW LONG DOST THOU MAKE US TO DOUBT? IF THOU BE THE CHRIST, TELL US PLAINLY.”

How long are you going to make us doubt? Another translation may say how long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah tell us plainly. So Jesus begins a series of statements that should have left no doubt in their minds at all.

v.25 “JESUS ANSWERED THEM, I TOLD YOU, AND YE BELIEVED NOT: THEY WORKS THAT I DO IN MY FATHER’S NAME, THEY BEAR WITNESS OF ME.”

His works bore witness of his divinity, even, Nicodemus one of the council, saw his works and believed in him because of them.

John 3:2 “THE SAME CAME TO JESUS BY NIGHT, AND SAID UNTO HIM, RABBI, WE KNOW THAT THOU ART A TEACHER COME FROM GOD: FOR NO MAN CAN DO THESE MIRACLES THAT THOU DOEST, EXCEPT GOD BE WITH HIM.

v.26 “BUT YE BELIEVED NOT, BECAUSE YE ARE NOT OF MY SHEEP, AS I SAY UNTO YOU.”

John Chapter Ten

Jesus now goes back to the same instruction that he had just given in the prior chapter. The true believers in God hear and obey God's words:

John 8:47 "HE THAT IS OF GOD HEARETH GOD'S WORDS: YE THEREFORE HEAR *them* NOT, BECAUSE YE ARE NOT OF GOD."

v.27 "MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE, AND I KNOW THEM, AND THEY FOLLOW ME."

He repeats the same teaching that they had heard in verse 4 and in verse 14; Jesus knows those who are his, they hear (i.e. listen) to his voice and follow him.

v.28 "AND I GIVE UNTO THEM ETERNAL LIFE; AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH, NEITHER SHALL ANY *man* PLUCK THEM OUT OF MY HAND."

This goes back to the beginning of his teaching:

John 3:14-15 "AND AS MOSES LIFTED UP THE SERPENT IN THE WILDERNESS, EVEN SO MUST THE SON OF MAN BE LIFTED UP: THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."

If we believe in him we should not perish. Does that mean that once we're saved we can now go on about the business of living, that we will always be saved? No. Let's look at **Romans 2:7** and see to whom eternal life is promised in Paul writing:

Romans 2:7 "TO THEM WHO BY PATIENT CONTINUANCE IN WELL DOING SEEK FOR GLORY AND HONOR AND IMMORTALITY, ETERNAL LIFE."

Eternal life will be given to those who patiently continue in "WELL DOING" or righteous living as willing and obedient servants of God, seeking, working and yearning for "GLORY AND HONOR AND IMMORTALITY".

No man can pluck them out of God's hand. This assurance is echoed by Paul to the Romans:

John Chapter Ten

Romans 8:38-39 “FOR I AM PERSUADED THAT NEITHER DEATH, NOR LIFE, NOR ANGELS, NOR PRINCIPALITIES, NOR POWERS, NOR THINGS PRESENT, NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR HEIGHT, NOR DEPTH, NOR ANY OTHER CREATURE, SHALL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD, WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.”

v.29 “MY FATHER, WHICH GAVE *them* ME, IS GREATER THAN ALL; AND NO *man* IS ABLE TO PLUCK *them* OUT OF MY FATHER’S HAND.”

Speaking of himself in the third person Jesus in his prayer before his crucifixion said this:

John 17:2 “AS THOU HAST GIVEN HIM POWER OVER ALL FLESH, THAT HE SHOULD GIVE ETERNAL LIFE TO AS MANY AS THOU HAST GIVEN HIM.”

v.30 “I AND *my* FATHER ARE ONE.”

Are you the Christ? Yes, I and my Father are one. A simple, straightforward statement; Jesus the son of God and God are in perfect harmony. Christ refers to this oneness with God in his prayer:

John 17:11 “AND NOW I AM NO MORE IN THE WORLD, BUT THESE ARE IN THE WORLD, AND I COME TO THEE, HOLY FATHER, KEEP THROUGH THINE OWN NAME THOSE WHOM THOU HAST GIVEN ME, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, AS WE *are*.”

Read **John 10:31-39** – Danger Again

v.31 “THEN THE JEWS TOOK UP STONES AGAIN TO STONE HIM.”

Why did they want to stone him? Because when he declared himself to be the son of God they considered that blasphemy. Under the Mosaic Covenant blasphemers were put to death by stoning.

Leviticus 24:16 “AND HE THAT BLASPHEMETH THE NAME OF THE **LORD**, HE SHALL SURELY BE PUT TO DEATH, *and* ALL THE CONGREGATION SHALL CERTAINLY STONE HIM: AS WELL AS THE STRANGER, AS HE THAT IS BORN IN THE LAND, WHEN HE BLASPHEMETH THE NAME *of the Lord*, SHALL BE PUT TO DEATH.”

John Chapter Ten

v.32 “JESUS ANSWERED THEM, MANY GOOD WORKS HAVE I SHOWED YOU FROM MY FATHER; FOR WHICH OF THOSE WORKS DO YE STONE ME.”

Jesus asked his tormentors, just which of my good works are you about to stone me for doing? Had they but looked they would not have been able to find any fault in Jesus at all. Judas, who betrayed him, testified (Matthew **27:4**) that he was innocent and sealed his testimony with his own blood; Pilate testified that he could find no fault in Christ (**Luke 23:4, 14**); the centurion who crucified him testified “THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD”; (**Matthew 27:54**) and the Apostle Peter convicted them on the day of Pentecost boldly confirming that Jesus of Nazareth was “...A MAN APPROVED OF GOD AMONG YOU BY MIRACLES AND WONDERS AND SIGNS, WHICH GOD DID BY HIM IN THE MIDST OF YOU, AS YE YOURSELVES ALSO KNOW.” (**Acts 2:22**)

v.33 “THE JEWS ANSWERED HIM SAYING, FOR A GOOD WORK WE STONE YE NOT, BUT FOR BLASPHEMY; AND BECAUSE THOU, BEING A MAN, MAKEST THYSELF GOD.”

The Jews anxious to stone Jesus say that they are not condemning him because of his good works but rather because he called himself the Son of God. They understood plainly, rightfully so, His statement that he was the Messiah.

v.34 “JESUS ANSWERED THEM, IS IT NOT WRITTEN IN YOUR LAW, I SAID, YE ARE GODS?”

Jesus refers them to a psalm of Asaph:

Psalms 82:6 “I HAVE SAID, YE *are* GODS; AND ALL OF YOU *are* CHILDREN OF THE MOST HIGH.”

Where we see that those who execute the law of God as he has commanded are recognized as gods, or the children of God.

v.35 “IF HE CALLED THEM GODS, UNTO WHOM THE WORD OF GOD CAME, AND THE SCRIPTURE CANNOT BE BROKEN;”

John Chapter Ten

Now Jesus called upon them to acknowledge that the “WORD OF GOD” of God, inspired scripture, God breathed, cannot be broken. Paul wrote to the Romans:

Romans 13:1 “LET EVERY SOUL BE SUBJECT UNTO THE HIGHER POWERS. FOR THERE IS NO POWER BUT OF GOD: THE POWERS THAT BE ARE ORDAINED OF GOD.”

His scripture stands and no man, group of men, ruling council or king can overcome the word of God.

v.36 “SAY YE OF HIM, WHOM THE FATHER HATH SANCTIFIED, AND SENT INTO THE WORLD, THOU BLASPHEMEST; BECAUSE I SAID, I AM THE SON OF GOD?”

God himself declared that Jesus was his son in the presence of witnesses at his baptism:

Matthew 3:17 “AND LO A VOICE FROM HEAVEN, SAYING, THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED.”

He challenges them to show that one that had been sanctified, set aside for a specific purpose, sent into the world to live and die like men, is committing the sin of blasphemy if he tells the truth about his origin.

v.37 “IF I DO NOT THE WORKS OF MY FATHER, BELIEVE ME NOT.”

Jesus again tells them if he did not do the works of his father then they would have grounds to accuse him and they should not believe him. He has told them repeatedly during his most recent teaching that he is indeed the Son of God and even that he had three witnesses as required by the Mosaic Law; John the Immerser, God himself and His works.

v.38 “BUT IF I DO, THOUGH YE BELIEVE NOT ME, BELIEVE THE WORKS; THAT YE MAY KNOW, AND BELIEVE [understand], THAT THE FATHER *is* IN ME, AND I IN HIM.”

Jesus tells them that he had an independent witness; a witness that cannot be swayed, separate from the words or claims of anyone, testifying that Jehovah God is with him. As Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem for the final time before his crucifixion we find this testimony:

John Chapter Ten

Luke 19:37 “AND WHEN HE WAS COME NIGH, EVEN NOW AT THE DESCENT OF THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, THE WHOLE MULTITUDE OF THE DISCIPLES BEGAN TO REJOICE AND PRAISE GOD WITH A LOUD VOICE FOR ALL THE MIGHTY WORKS THAT THEY HAD SEEN.”

v.39 “THEREFORE THEY SOUGHT AGAIN TO TAKE HIM: BUT HE ESCAPED OUT OF THEIR HAND.”

It just is not time for God's plan for his sacrifice for our sins to be carried out. During these few months of Jesus life; twice they have tried to mob him(**John 8:59, 10:31**); twice they have tried to arrest him (**John 7:32, 45; 10:39**) and had laid secret plans to assassinate him (**John 7:18, 8:37**). But none of these attempts succeeded because God was not ready.

Read **John 10:40-42** – Teaching Beyond Jordan

v.40 “AND WENT AWAY AGAIN BEYOND JORDAN INTO THE PLACE WHERE JOHN AT FIRST BAPTIZED; AND THERE HE ABODE.”

This movement of Jesus to the region where John baptized is recorded primarily by Luke and is called the Perea Ministry. As we can see from this map that part of his preaching and teaching took place in the region of Perea, east of the Jordan River.

v.41 “AND MANY RESORTED UNTO HIM, AND SAID, JOHN DID NO MIRACLE: BUT ALL THINGS THAT JOHN SPAKE OF THIS MAN WERE TRUE.”

We remember from our earlier study that John identified Jesus to his disciples this way:

John 1:29 “THE NEXT DAY JOHN SEETH JESUS COMING UNTO HIM, AND SAITH, BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKEN AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD.”

And we have several other records of John praising Jesus, serving as the herald who was announcing the coming of the King, the Messiah, and preaching to his disciple that Jesus should increase as he decreased. Now these people understand that what John said was true.

v.42 “AND MANY BELIEVED ON HIM THERE.”

John Chapter Ten

A simple declaration; where Jesus taught, where Jesus performed miracles, where Jesus went his presence was so powerful that those who were not biased against him believed.