

The Gospel of John

Lesson 10: *Hanukkah Shepherd* John 10 (27Oct-30Dec 26AD)

John 10:1 "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. 17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

19 The Jews who heard these words were again divided. 20 Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?"

21 But others said, "These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

22 Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. 24 The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

31 Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, 32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

33 "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are "gods" '? 35 If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be set aside— 36 what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? 37 Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. 38 But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." 39 Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.

40 Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. There he stayed, 41 and many people came to him. They said, "Though John never performed a sign, all that John said about this man was true." 42 And in that place many believed in Jesus.

The Good Shepherd

John 10:1 "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, (**False prophets**) is a **thief and a robber**. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep (**We hear His voice**) listen to his **voice**. He calls his own sheep by **name (He knows our name. 2Samuel 7:20 "What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, Sovereign LORD.)** and **leads (He leads us)** them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on **ahead (Christ goes before us - not drives us)** of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his **voice. (God's will is Gentle)** 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will **run away (We run from strangers)** from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but the **Pharisees did not understand** what he was telling them. (**We do not understand when our minds are closed.**)

7 Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, **I am (I am = YHWH)** the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are **thieves and robbers, (False prophets/Messiahs are thieves and robbers)** but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 **I am the gate; ("Yahweh saves" is the door to salvation)** whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find **pasture. (We will be taken care of)** 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and **destroy; (Satan's messengers bring sin on us to destroy us)** I have come that they may have **life, and have it to the full. (Following Jesus is a joyful life.)**

11 "I am the **good shepherd**. The good shepherd **lays down his life (Good shepherds protect the sheep with their lives. i.e. David and the bear and the lion)** for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not **own (Ownership gives a real interest - Jesus owns you and I)** the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and **cares nothing (Renters don't care - False prophets come and go and don't care)** for the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd; **I know my sheep and my sheep know me (We know Jesus and He knows us)**— 15 just as the **Father knows me and I know the Father (We are united with Father God through Jesus)**—and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have **other sheep (Other sheep will hear his voice)** that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will **listen** to my voice, and there shall be **one flock and one shepherd**. 17 The reason my Father loves me is that I **lay down my life—only to take it up again. (God loves Jesus' commitment and power to restore life)** 18 **No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. (He gives his life - not weakly has it taken)** I have authority to lay it down and **authority** to take it up again. This command I received from my **Father.**"

19 The Jews who heard these **words (What words - giving life and especially taking it back)** were again divided. 20 Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?"

21 But others said, "These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. **Can a demon open the eyes of the blind? (Demons don't do good to people)**

Matthew 18:12 (Monday 4 November 26) "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? 13 And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. 14 In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

Jesus Celebrates Hanukkah

22 Then came the **Festival of Dedication** at Jerusalem. It was **winter**, (**Monday 23-30 December 26; 25 Kislev - 2 Tebet 3787. Hanukkah is in December - the cleansing of the temple by the Maccabees, where they Light candles to celebrate**)

1 Maccabees 4:36 GNT Judas and his brothers said, Now that our enemies have been defeated, let's go to Jerusalem to purify the Temple and **rededicate** it. 37 So the whole army was assembled and went up to **Mount Zion**. 38 There they found the **Temple** abandoned, the altar profaned, the gates burned down, the courtyards grown up in a forest of weeds, and the priests' rooms torn down. 39 In their sorrow, they tore their clothes, cried loudly, threw ashes on their heads, 40 and fell face down on the ground. When the signal was given on the trumpets, everyone cried out to the Lord. 41 Then Judas ordered some of his soldiers to attack the men in the fort, while he **purified the Temple**. 42 He chose some **priests who were qualified** and who were **devoted to the Law**. 43 They **purified the Temple** and took the stones that had been defiled and put them in an unclean place. 44 They discussed what should be done with the altar of burnt offerings, which had been **desecrated** 45 by the Gentiles, and decided to tear it down, so that it would not stand there as a monument to their shame. So they tore down the altar 46 and put the stones in a suitable place on the **Temple hill**, where they were to be kept until a prophet should appear and decide what to do with them. 47 Then they took uncut stones, as the **Law of Moses** required, and built a new altar like the old one. 48 They **repaired the Temple**, inside and out, and **dedicated** its courtyards. 49 They made new utensils for worship and brought the **lampstand**, the altar of incense, and the table for the bread into the Temple. 50 They burned incense on the altar and **lit the lamps on the lampstand**, and there was **light** in the **Temple!** 51 They placed the loaves of bread on the table, hung the curtains, and completed all the work.

52-54 The **twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, the month of Kislev**, in the year 148 (**165BC**) was the anniversary of the day the Gentiles had desecrated the altar. On that day a sacrifice was offered on the new altar in accordance with the **Law of Moses**. The new altar was **dedicated** and hymns were sung to the accompaniment of harps, lutes, and cymbals. 55 All the people bowed down with their faces to the ground and worshiped and praised the Lord for giving them victory. 56 For **eight days** they celebrated the **rededication** of the altar. With great joy they brought burnt offerings and offered fellowship offerings and thank offerings. 57 They decorated the front of the Temple with gold crowns and shields, rebuilt the gates and the priests' rooms and put doors on them. 58 Now that the Jews had removed the shame which the Gentiles had brought, they held a great **celebration**. 59 Then Judas, his brothers, and the entire community of Israel decreed that the **rededication** of the altar should be **celebrated** with a **festival of joy** and gladness at the same time each year, **beginning on the twenty-fifth of the month of Kislev and lasting for eight days**.

23 and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in **Solomon's Colonnade**. (**The temple will shelter from the cold**)

Acts 5:12 (Wednesday 4 June 27) **The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.**

24 The **Jews who were there** (**The Jews were there because Jesus was in the temple & they were also there for Hanukkah and thus they are thinking Messianic thoughts**) gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the **Messiah**, tell us **plainly**." (**Do they really want to know?**)

25 Jesus answered, "**I did tell you, (When did he tell them or what did he tell them? He told them in prophetic language - unclear to the unknowledgeable) but you do not believe. (Yet they did not believe. Only those who were true sheep - then believed)** The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, (**Jesus' actions speak louder than words**) 26 but you do not believe because you are **not my sheep**. 27 My sheep listen to **my voice**; (**True sheep were already hearing and believing and Jesus knew it**) I know them, and they **follow me**. (**They are following and living in forgiveness and new life**) 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall **never perish**; (**God's life is not extinguishable**) no one will snatch them out of my hand. (**You cannot be snatched from God - Can you backslide from grace? The Temple of the Holy Spirit cannot be taken over like the Jerusalem temple was.**) 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; (**Who can fight with the Father?**) no one can **snatch** them out of my **Father's** hand. 30 I and the Father are **one**." (**One in action because Jesus is God as Trinity.**)

31 Again his Jewish opponents picked up **stones** to **stone him**, (**They heard him plainly in answer to vs. 24**) 32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many **good works (Jesus does good works)** from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" (**Why do people get upset at good works i.e. healings?**)

33 "We are not stoning you for any good work," (**They claim it is not for good works - people criticize true faith healers not for the works, but for the claim of it coming from God through them - who make themselves close to God who requires repentance**) they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a **mere man, claim to be God**." (**Jesus made himself to be God.**)

34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in **your Law**, 'I have said you are **"gods"**'?"

Psalms 82:0 A psalm of Asaph. 1 God presides in the great assembly; he renders judgment among the **"gods"**: ... 6 "I said, 'You are **"gods"**'; you are all **sons of the Most High**.' 7 But you will die like mere mortals; you will fall like every other ruler."

35 If he called them **'gods'**, to **whom (Asaph received this word from God)** the word (**Logos**) of God came—and **Scripture cannot be set aside (The scripture does not lie)**— 36 what about the one whom the Father **set apart (Jesus was set apart [dedicated] - as was the temple during this feast of dedication - Jesus was sent into the world by God)** as his very own and **sent into the world?** Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am **God's Son**'? (**He is speaking pretty clear**)

37 Do not believe me **unless** I do the **works of my Father**. 38 But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, **believe the works, (Does Jesus' actions match his words?)** that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." (**Why is this so important to understand? For what He is going to do on the cross for us. Believe His works**) 39 Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp. (**He said He is God.**)

Mark 14:61 ... Again the high priest asked him, "**Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?**" 62 "**I am**," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

40 Then Jesus **went back (He will save his neck for a time)** across the Jordan to the place where **John** had been baptizing in the early days. There he stayed, (**He is staying away from trouble**) 41 and many people came to him. They said, "Though John never performed a sign, all that **John said about this man was true**." (**John said he would be the Messiah with the Holy Spirit**) 42 And in that place **many believed in Jesus. (This causes many to believe in Him for an unspecified period of time.)**

Psalms 118:24 KJV **This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.**