

Jesus The Good Shepherd

Int.

1. Aim: To show how Jesus is our good shepherd.
2. John 10:1-30
3. Shepherds were important in Bible times
 - a. Some of the important characters were shepherds: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the children of Israel.
 - b. Gen. 47:3 "And Pharaoh said unto his brethren, What is your occupation? And they said unto Pharaoh, Thy servants are shepherds, both we, and also our fathers."
 - c. Moses was a shepherd - Exodus 3:1-8
 - d. David was a shepherd - 1 Samuel 16:1-23
 - e. Shepherds first received the announcement of the birth of Jesus - Luke 2:8ff
4. Here in our text Jesus, the Master teacher, uses a familiar example to teach an important lesson

Discussion

I. PARABLE OF THE SHEEPFOLD - v. 1-6

- A. Different type "parable" from those given in Matthew, Mark and Luke.
 1. Word here means a "proverb" or "allegory"
 2. In an allegory a person can overdo the comparisons.
 3. We must not take them too far. We cannot make each detail represent something.

B. Common illustration to them

1. The sheep folds of their day.
 - a. Rock wall with brush and thorns on top of it; with a shepherd across the entrance. He became the door.
 - b. Used to keep many flocks at night
 - (1) Each sheep knew its own shepherd's voice
 - (2) Example of one shepherd who changed clothing with another shepherd. The sheep knew the difference by their voice.
2. Thieves and wolves sometimes tried to go over the top of wall

C. The Allegory was given to show the contrast between Jesus and the false teachers

1. V. 1 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber."
 - a. Entrance into the sheepfold was by the door. There was but one such entrance.
 - b. The true shepherds used this door.
 - c. Unauthorized persons., intending to steal, to avoid exposure, climbed over the wall in darkness.
 - (1) A thief comes in by stealth and secretly tries to take what belongs to another
 - (2) A robber takes by force that which belongs to another
 - d. The Pharisees were guilty of both
 - (1) They deceived the people by their cunning talk - a thief
 - (2) Later they were so filled with hate they had Jesus put to death = robber

- e. Jesus the true shepherd came in the proper way
 - (1) Predicted by the prophets and Announced by John
 - (2) Approved by the Father through the works he did.

- 2. V. 2 "But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep."
 - a. The true shepherd, known both to the sheep and the doorkeeper, enters properly, through the door of the sheepfold
 - b. The manner in which one seeks to enter determines the character.
 - c. If one seeks to enter by the door he is a true shepherd.
 - d. But if he seeks to enter some other way he is not a true shepherd.

- 3. V. 3 "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."
 - a. The sheepfold is the church. Christ is the door. His disciples are the sheep.
 - b. The porter is God the Father.
 - c. The function of the porter is doorkeeper
 - (1) He knows the true shepherd and opens for him.
 - (2) This is why the thief and robber try to come in some other way. They know the porter would refuse them.

4. V. 4 "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."
- a. Here is the order:
 - (1) The shepherd appears at the door
 - (2) The porter recognizes the shepherd
 - (3) He opens the door and allows the shepherd to enter
 - (4) The shepherd calls his sheep by name
 - (5) They respond and he directs them through the door and then leads them out to pastures green.
 - b. They follow him because they know his voice.
5. V. 5 "Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."
- a. The sheep will not follow a stranger because they do not recognize his voice.
 - b. During World War I, some Turkish soldiers tried to steal a flock of sheep from a hillside from Jerusalem. The shepherd, who had been sleeping, awoke to find his flock being driven off. He couldn't recapture them by force, so he called out to his flock with his distinctive call. The sheep listened, and returned to their rightful owner. The soldiers couldn't stop the sheep from returning to their shepherd's voice.
 - c. The lesson is obvious:
 - (1) Jesus is the good shepherd
 - (2) Faithful disciples will hear and obey his voice
 - (3) They will not listen to strangers - false teachers - who would lead them astray

- d. People indicate whose sheep they are by whose voice they follow.
 - e. The voice of Jesus is heard through his word which has been revealed to us by inspired men.
6. V. 6 "Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them." "This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them." KJV
- a. Parable - an allegory is a form of a parable, but differs from it a little.
 - b. A parable illustrates that which can and often does happen.
 - c. Whereas an allegory draws out a similitude between that actually described and that intended to be taught.
 - d. The Lord, by means of this allegory, showed them that they did not perceive his teaching, not because they could not, but because they would not.

II. I AM THE DOOR - v. 7-10

- A. Jesus' claim for himself - v. 7 "Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep."
 - 1. He is the door
 - 2. That meant that through him alone is the way of salvation.
 - 3. It was he who brought from God the knowledge of salvation.
 - 4. It was he who would make atonement for sin so that salvation for man would be possible.
 - 5. 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.

B. He accuses the Pharisees - v. 8 "All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them."

1. All - would refer to those who came before him claiming to be the door of the sheep.
2. This would include those false Messiahs who appeared at various times in Israel's history.
3. All who tried to turn the people away from the promise of the Father would be included.
4. The Pharisees are included in this group.

C. His offer to the sheep - v. 9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

1. He is the door - that means that only through the Lord is salvation possible
2. The ecumenical concept so popular today is that everyone and everybody is OK.
3. The understanding of these words here in this context show that any one who offers men salvation in a way that does not harmonize with the teaching of Christ is a thief and robber.
4. Jesus is the way to find the "pasture" the source of all spiritual blessings.
5. We must H.B.R.C.B = S + then remain faithful and grow and mature

D. The contrast - v. 10 **"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."**

1. False teachers, like sheep thieves, will kill and destroy.
2. The thief will, without hesitation, sacrifice the sheep for his own gain.
3. This is in contrast to Jesus who comes to give life, not destroy life.
4. He comes to give abundant life
 - a. Abundantly means bountiful blessings overflowing in extent
 - b. A continuous overflowing - a never-ceasing supply of life for every faithful soul
5. The thief would take these away
6. The thief is anyone who teaches that the way of salvation is some other than that which Jesus gave.

III. I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD - v. 11-18

A. The Shepherd vs. The Hireling - v. 11-13

1. The good shepherd protects his sheep, even to giving his life for them.
 - a. David was a shepherd
 - b. He tells how he killed a lion and a bear while defending his father's flock as a shepherd lad. 1 Sam. 17:34-37
 - c. Shepherds were frequently in dangerous life threatening situations

2. John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."
 - a. The good shepherd protects his sheep, even to giving his life for them
 - b. Jesus is the good shepherd, not just a good shepherd.
 - (1) Literally it means "the shepherd the good one"
 - (2) Good = denotes that which is beautiful, wholesome, noble and good, in contrast with that which is unlovely, foul, mean and wicked.
 - c. Jesus eventually gave his life on the cross as the good shepherd.
 - (1) He who would save others, though he had the power, did not choose to save himself.
 - (2) He gave his life for, on behalf of, the sheep.
 - (3) Matt. 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.
 - (4) Jesus died not as a martyr in defense of a cause, but for us that we might be saved.

3. The Hireling protects himself and lets the sheep perish
 - a. V. 12 & 13 "But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 "The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep."
 - b. The Hireling works for his pay, his wages. His main concern is not for the sheep but for himself.

- (1) When a wolf appeared, the hireling was interested only in saving his own life, would abandon the flock and flee.
- (2) This left the sheep to be scattered and some of them killed
- c. The wolf represents any threat to the Lord's followers
 - (1) Any false teacher
 - (2) Any person who uses religion for his own selfish purposes would be in this category.
 - (3) Some preachers and elders today do not feel any obligation to defend the lord's church and the truth against all the false teachers and false doctrines being spread widely.
 - (4) They love peace and tranquility so much that they will allow the wolves to come in and destroy the flock.
 - (5) They are hirelings!!

B. Jesus is the Good Shepherd - V. 14 & 15

- 1. His Sheep know Him V. 14 " I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own."
- a. Same phrase as in V. 11 - repeated here to contrast Jesus, the true shepherd with the Hireling - the false one.
- b. His sheep know Him
 - (1) To know Him is to hear His voice, not the voice of some false teacher.
 - (2) Also implies that we follow him

2. He lays down his life for the sheep V.15 "As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep."
 - a. He has power to come to life - resurrection
 - b. Dies "For" - "In stead of" - his sheep
 - c. He does it because he loves His sheep
 - (1) The ultimate test for us is shown in this fact - he laid down his life for us
 - (2) He assumed human life in order that he might do this for us.
 - (3) He gave up physical life for us in order that we might have spiritual life in him

C. One fold and one Shepherd

1. V. 16 "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd."
2. The other sheep were the Gentiles
 - a. God intended to establish a church in which people of all nations could come to him
 - b. It is a world-wide religion
 - (1) Mark 16:15 - "into all the word" - "every creature" Mark 16:15 (ASV) And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation.
 - (2) Mt. 28:19 - "all nations"
3. One Fold and One Shepherd
 - a. There is only one door and only one flock and one shepherd.

- b. The one fold is the one body:
 - (1) Eph. 1:19-21 the body is the church
 - (2) Eph. 4:4-6 tells us there is but one body
 - c. So there is but one church, the New Testament Church.
4. He does it voluntarily - v. 17, 18 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

IV. Lessons We learn From Jesus the Good Shepherd

- A. Jesus is the door
 - 1. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life - John 14:6
 - 2. He is the only door or way to the Father.
 - 3. The door is strait or restricted and way is narrow which leads to life everlasting.
Matt. 6:13-14
 - 4. The religious leaders of that day [Pharisees] could not give entrance to anything - they were but thieves and robbers.
 - 5. The false teachers do not bring the truth - but their own teaching
- B. Jesus was the Shepherd
 - 1. The evil shepherds fed themselves - not the flock.
 - a. Ezek. 34:2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of I srael, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of I srael that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?"

- b. They would not strengthen the diseased, nor bind up those sheep which had fallen and injured themselves, nor see those which wandered away.
 - c. Their neglect caused the sheep to be scattered, prey for the enemy.
 - d. The blood of the sheep would be upon the hirelings.
2. Ezekiel prophesied of the Great Shepherd
 - a. Ezek. 34:23-27
 - b. He was speaking of the Son of David, the Messiah who would reign upon David's throne.
 3. At times, shepherds have been known to lose their lives for the sheep - David risked his life when he killed a lion and a bear to protect the sheep. - 1 Sam. 18:34-37
 4. Christ loved the sheep so much that he came to earth to lay down his life for the sheep.
 - a. Luke 19:10
 - b. John 1:29
 5. The good shepherd would die for his sheep - He did it voluntarily
 6. He died in the place of the sheep, giving his life a ransom for the sheep.
 - a. Matt. 20:28 "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."
 - b. No human shepherd could ransom the sheep.
 - c. Only one who was Divine - Part of the Godhead - could do this.

Conclusion

1. Jesus is our Good Shepherd - He has provided our salvation - He loved us so much He gave his life to save us.
2. Christ died physically that his sheep might live spiritually.
3. Are you one of his Sheep? You can be by obedience to His commands.
4. Belief, Repentance, Confession and Baptism = Forgiveness of sins ~ added to the church
5. But we like sheep can stray and be lost again - Repent and Confess

Sources consulted

1. Show Us the Father - by W.T. Hamilton
2. Commentary on John by - Guy N. Woods
3. Firm Foundation Lectureship - 1989 "John" - William S. Cline, Editor

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning July 27, 2008
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