

John 10:25-29

Who is Jesus to you? At the end of the illustrations Jesus gave to his audience that was told in three ways, there was a sharp division as to who Jesus is.

One group thought he was insane due to demon possession. The other group thought differently. How can a demon possessed person bring sight to the blind?

C.S. Lewis once wrote that we have one of three choices to make in regard to who Jesus is. He is either a liar concluding that all the statements he made about Himself were false. He is a lunatic. For only a crazy person would die such a horrible, tortuous death for nothing. The other conclusion is that He really is Lord. He really is God. Who is He to you?

This brings us to our text for the morning. Jesus is in Jerusalem. It is winter. It is time for the Feast of Dedication, which is Hanukkah, the festival of lights. Winter is rain season which may be the reason why they were in the covered area called the Portico of Solomon. Jews surrounded him and began saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense. If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

Let's pick up from there the conversation. John 10:25-29

*<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me.*

*<sup>26</sup> But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep.*

*<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; <sup>28</sup> and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.*

*<sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.*

What was Jesus saying? He was saying that the evidence is clear. The deeds and works that He had done gave evidence that He is indeed the Messiah, the Christ. The reason they did not see it or hear it is because they are not sheep. Jesus then goes further in the illustration of the shepherd and sheep. In these verses, we find five truths of what it is to be sheep of God.

### **Believers are His sheep**

This truth is found in the two profound words, "My sheep." If you remember basic grammar, "my" is possessive. We belong to Jesus. We belong to God. You are His. We are not born into the fold of God. We are transferred in ownership by our commitment of our lives to Him as Lord and Savior. It is turning from the possession of anyone else, Satan or even ourselves which is delusional. We belong to Him. The price paid for you to belong to Him was heavy. It cost the life of the shepherd. Yet, the shepherd gave His life. And because the shepherd gave His life, the shepherd took His life up again. Our shepherd is the resurrected Jesus Christ. He won over the greatest enemy there is, death itself.

In a discussion of our bodies belonging to God, he writes this in 1 Corinthians 6.

*<sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*

## **Sheep hear the voice of the shepherd and follow Him.**

Verse 27 says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

How do you know it's the voice of the shepherd? That is important to know these days, for many claim to hear the voice of shepherd and share what the shepherd says to them. 1 John 4 tells us to test the spirits to see if they are from God. That portion of scripture tells us that if it is of God, it will confess Jesus as God. Another way of testing the voice is to see if it agrees with scripture. If you hear words like, "The Bible says, but..." beware that may not be the voice of The Shepherd.

The sheep hear the voice of the Shepherd and follow Him.

If we say we know Him, we will keep His commandments. Such is what we learned from 1 John 2 this past Wednesday night.

In the early part of Jesus' ministry, he went to certain persons and said, "Follow me."

Following Him is to follow as a disciple.

Following Him is to exchange that which is most valuable to you. You stop valuing something to value Christ as the greatest. The kingdom of God is like finding treasure in a field and selling everything you have to buy that field. It is of greatest value to you.

Following Him is to follow as a learner follows his teacher. You learn the teachers principles, ways of living, and mannerisms. To follow Christ is a lifelong journey. You never stop learning.

Matthew 4:19 Jesus issued the call to Simon and Andrew. "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men."

Remember the definition of disciple drawn from that verse. A disciple is one who knows and follows Christ, who is being changed by Christ, and who is committed to the mission of Christ.

The next verse, verse 20, we find that Peter and Andrew immediately left their nets and followed Him. They were never the same again.

## **The Shepherd, Jesus, gives us eternal life**

We find that in verse 28. The emphasis is on give. We don't earn eternal life. He gives us eternal life.

Eternal life is abundant life. We talked of that before.

Country music icon Merle Haggard (1937-2016), had 38 of his albums appear on Billboard's country-music top 10 charts (more than a dozen made it to Number One). He also had 38 Number One singles. Haggard also had five wives and spent time in San Quentin Prison. Haggard had said, "There is a restlessness in my soul that I've never conquered, not with motion, marriages or meaning ... It's still there to a degree. And it will be till the day I die."

That is not eternal life.

I once watched either Phil Donahue or Sally Jesse Raphael where they had Siamese twins on the show. The host would inquire about life joined together. One set of twins were joined at the head. "Don't you ever get angry for the hand life dealt you?" No. I find my joy and happiness in Jesus Christ." That's abundant life. That is eternal life. It is God's life in us giving us joy and peace whatever the lot in life.

Eternal life is here and now, and hereafter. Jesus gives us an assurance as we see the next truth about our lives as sheep in the fold of God.

### **Sheep of God will never, never, never perish.**

Did I say never?

Verse 28. They will never perish.

You know in English, the double negative makes the statement or the verb positive. In NT language, the double negative makes the negative very emphatic.

To perish is to be separated from eternal life into eternal death.

For us who are Christ-followers, there is not eternal death. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. We will never, never perish. What secures that? That is secured because we have a resurrected shepherd.

Sheep of God will never, never, never perish because...

### **Sheep of God are in the hands of the Father and the Son.**

We are secure because we follow Christ. No exceptions. We don't follow strangers. When you see somebody who was around for a while then they disappear, it's 1 John 2:19. They went out from us because they were not of us. If they had been of us, they would've continued with us, but they went out from us that it might be made manifest they never were of us. We are secure because we've been given eternal life. To say it has an end is a contradiction in terms, and makes nonsense out of the promise.

We are secure because eternal life is given. It's given. I give eternal life. We didn't merit it. We can't forfeit it. We didn't do anything to receive it. We can't do anything to forfeit it. The Lord Himself declares they will never perish. No one who is a sheep of His will ever go to hell. And if they do, Christ is a liar. And if Christ is a liar, then we're all on our way to hell.

We're secure because we're doubly held by the Father's hand and the Son's hand, and no one approaches their power.

What makes these statements even more true and sure is what Jesus says next. "I and the Father are one."

This makes us even more joyful for the words of Romans 8:38-39.

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These five statements are facts about our security in the possession of God. These are statements we make and bank on, not because we are Baptists and this is what we believe. We make these statements and bank on them because these are the very words of God. These are God statements.