

WHAT WOULD YOU DO FOR THOSE YOU LOVE?

Context: Immediately follows the healing of the blind man (John 9).

Sheep pen: “The Middle Eastern sheepfold was very simple: a stone wall, perhaps ten feet high, surrounded it, and an opening served as the door. The shepherds in the village would drive their sheep into the fold at nightfall and leave the porter to stand guard. In the morning each shepherd would call his own sheep, which would recognize their shepherd’s voice and come out of the fold. The porter (or one of the shepherds) would sleep at the opening of the fold and actually become “the door.” Nothing could enter or leave the fold without passing over the shepherd.”¹

Sheep

- Need shepherds: **Dumb, directionless, defenseless** (Tim Chailles)

- Follow the Shepherd because they know His voice – 10:2-5, 8
*But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.*³ *To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.*⁴ *When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.*⁵ *A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers....*⁸ *All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.*

Thieves & Hirelings

- Thieves look to **fleece** the sheep – 10:8-10
*All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.*⁹ *I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.*¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

- Hirelings are only there for the **money** – 10:12-13
*He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.*¹³ *He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.*

The Good Shepherd

- Jesus is the door between the sheep and the **wolves** – 10:7
So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.
- Jesus provides rest and protection for **weary** souls – 10:9-10
*I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.*¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

- Jesus lays down his life for the **sheep** – 10:11, 14-18
¹¹ *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep....*
¹⁴ *I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,*¹⁵ *just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.*
¹⁶ *And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.*¹⁷ *For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may 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 I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”*

Takeaways

Q: What would you do for those you love?

A: Follow what Jesus did for you.

Shepherding friends and family

- 1) Provide security through unconditional love.
- 2) Protect by identifying dangers.
- 3) Prepare by training them to follow and defend Jesus’ teachings.

¹ Warren Wiersbe, *Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the New Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1992), 237.