

They Know HIS Voice

6-16-24

John 10:4 (ESV)

When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

This morning we will kind of hover in the clouds reviewing our salvation, but hopefully it will strengthen us to hold to our faith in Jesus even more. Following the stunning work of God by healing the man born blind, Jesus presents HIMSELF as the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One, the only way to God the Father. HIS claims have a variety of reactions.

John 10:19–21 (ESV) NO/OH

¹⁹ There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰ Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” ²¹ Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

We must remember that the Jewish people were looking for the Messiah and they knew the OT Scriptures. Also, the people at this time lived in an agriculture focused culture which impacted the way Jesus spoke to them. Therefore, they fully understood shepherds, sheep, and sheep pens. Plus, shepherds and sheep are used for spiritual examples throughout the OT.

John 10:1–2 (ESV)

¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who ^(*) enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ^(*) **The Scriptures**

Anyone who tries to sneak into the sheep pen and doesn't go through the door are thieves and robbers. Only the true shepherd goes through the door. Who is the Shepherd, who are the sheep, and what is the gate/door? Obviously, the shepherd is Jesus the Messiah, and the sheep are the people.

The door the one way for the shepherd to approach the sheep. (*) The door is the way for the shepherd laid out by the Scriptures. Jesus came as the Scriptures foretold; Jesus fulfilled Scriptures! The Bible is the unfolding Revelation of Christ and the Redemption of Man. This is how we identify the Messiah. Jesus said:

John 5:39 (ESV)

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about ME.

Knowing Jesus' voice is closely connected to reading HIS Word, the Bible. We have the Scriptures, the door Jesus walked through to reveal HIMSELF to the sheep. Besides the Scriptures, we have The Holy Spirit who opens the door for Jesus.

John 10:3 (NIV)

The (*) gatekeeper opens the gate for the Shepherd, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. (*) **Gatekeeper = Holy Spirit**

(*)**The gatekeeper who opens the gate is the Holy Spirit. Jesus comes through the gate and calls HIS OWN sheep by name, and they listen to HIS voice. Great picture of free will and the sovereignty of God.** Jesus calls and we listen.

Key: We know HIS Voice.

John 10:4-5 (ESV) NO/OH

⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.

This leadership of the sheep is **self-authenticating. The Shepherd speaks and HIS sheep Know HIS voice.**

The people don't understand. So, Jesus uses another picture to get HIS point across.

John 10:7-10 (ESV) NO/OH

So, Jesus "again" said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I AM the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I AM the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

I AM the Door – Jesus the self-existing One is the Door! Jesus, the Door, is the one way to be saved. All the other doors, ways, shepherds are false and come only to steal and kill and destroy. False religions are not just benign beliefs. They are deadly!

Now Jesus clearly declares HIMSELF The Good Shepherd!

John 10:11-13 (ESV) NO/OH

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² 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.

Jesus the “I AM” the self-existing one is not only the door, but HE is ALSO HE is the Good Shepherd who lays down HIS life for the sheep. False shepherds are just hired hands and not real shepherds. When they see the wolf coming, they run away. However, Jesus protects the sheep from the wolves and would die rather than leave the sheep. This analogy also applies to earthly pastors and elders. Some will stay and protect the sheep, and some will flee caring nothing for the sheep.

Jesus, the I AM, the self-existing One is the Good Shepherd would die for the sheep reconciling us to the eternal God.

John 10:14-15 (ESV)

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.

**Jesus the good shepherd knows HIS sheep and HIS sheep know HIM. Self-authenticating relationship!
Jesus speaks and we know HIS VOICE!**

Now Jesus makes Very Important statement! Jesus has been speaking specifically to the Jewish people. But now Jesus give insight to the OT and God's eternal purpose for the world.

John 10:16 (ESV)

And I have other sheep that are not of this fold (Jews). I must bring them also (Non-Jews, Gentiles), and they will listen to my voice. **So, there will be one flock, one shepherd.**

Jesus will go to all the world, and they also will listen to HIS voice. **There will be One flock – the church, and One Shepherd, Jesus.**

The mystery of God is mankind being reconciled to HIM.

John 10:17-18 (ESV) NO/OH

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.

With this solid foundation, we know HIS Voice and stand strong in all circumstances. This gives deep understanding to the most well know verse in the Bible.

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in HIM **(They Know HIS Voice)** should not perish but have eternal life.