

Remnant Life Church
April 17, 2016
Recovering What the Enemy Has Stolen
Part 1
John 10:1-21

- Jesus was the greatest teacher who ever lived
- He used, what we today would call, multiple methods – parables the most but also allegorical
- The difficulty was that the people, often the disciples, did not understand what He was saying
- **READ – John 10:1-21**
 - (CONTEXT – chapter divisions early 13th century; verses mid 16th century)
- Theme: the contrast between the Good Shepherd and the bad shepherds of Israel (focusing on vv 1-10)
 - Shepherd was an OT picture used to describe a leader – both good and bad - of God’s people (*Isa 40:11, 56:11; Jer 31:10, 50:6*)
 - Jesus is talking to the Pharisees (those who were supposed to spiritually guard or shepherd the people of Israel) had shown themselves to be corrupt
 - They would regularly ignore the Levitical/Mosaic law of repentance and would often allow the people to pay them to atone for their sins (some other way – *vs 1*)
 - **NOTE:** anyone who attempts personal financial gain through the ministry is corrupt!
- Jesus speaks of the sheep knowing the shepherds voice (*vv. 2-5*)
 - When the sheep were brought to the city they would often be place in a common pen if it were late in the day that would be watched over by a gatekeeper or watchman (*v 3*)
 - In the morning the shepherds would come to get their sheep
 - The shepherd would use a distinctive call that only his sheep would recognize and they would come out of the common herd to him
 - Jesus is saying that the sheep that know His voice will come out from the law-driven Judaism (represented by the Pharisees)
 - Paul writes of this in *Rom 11:5* “...a remnant chosen by grace...”
- Then we read in *v. 6* that the Pharisees did not understand or get what Jesus was saying – Jesus uses a different analogy
- The true or good shepherd will protect his flock (*vv. 7-10*)
- Jesus calls Himself the gate or door (Gk: Thurah)
 - Same word used in *v. 2* but the meaning is different because of the context that Jesus uses it in
 - The gate used in *v. 2* was located just outside the city walls, the one in *v. 7* was part of a pen to keep the sheep in the pastures and fields

- It would only have one opening and the shepherd would lay across the opening to keep them in and the predators out
- The shepherd would be the door
- **Verse 7** Jesus says very plainly, “I am the gate for the sheep”
- Anyone (meaning the Pharisees and false teachers) who came before Him was not willing to give their life or lay in the doorway (v 8)
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd (v 11) who protects and cares for His sheep (v 9)
- The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (10:10)
- The thief (satan) is still stealing, killing, and destroying today – his primary target is Christians
 - Jesus calls satan The thief, not just a thief
 - Word for thief in the original language is Klep-tahs
 - Kleptomania – the uncontrollable urge to steal
 - He is a compulsive liar and thief and his sights are set on you if you know Jesus Christ as your Savior
- What does he want to steal? (Not an exhaustive list)

1. Friends

- a. **Psalm 55:12-14** – an enemy can be dealt with but not a close friend who betrays
- b. David is fleeing from Absalom because his close friend Ahithophel gave him up
- c. Satan will use deception, corruption, and confusion to divide and isolate believers
- d. Job’s friends came to comfort but they stayed to criticize and condemn
- e. That is why it is so important to guard one another in what we say and how we resolve conflict
- f. (Listen to last week’s sermon again or if you missed it)

2. Family

- a. Husband from wife; parents from children; brother from brother and sister from sister
- b. **Rom 12:18** - *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*
- c. This is not a command for our friends first but must start in the home
- d. Satan will use business, laziness, and haziness
 - + too busy to spend the time needed with one another
 - + don’t want to put the effort in that is required for healthy relationships
 - + fail to recognize when things are getting bad because our focus is on ourselves