



BETWEEN YOU AND JESUS

John 10:1-21

Pastor Eddie Idefonso

Continued from last edition...

‘... I know My sheep, and My sheep know Me.’

There are three relationships that exist spiritually. The relationship that God and Jesus have; the relationship that Jesus and we have with one another; and the relationship we are able to have with God the Father through Jesus the Son.

Jesus is our spiritual shepherd. He is the One we follow and trust. Now, let’s talk about ...

2. THE SHEEP

The sheep have a very personal and trusting relationship with their shepherd. They literally put their lives in His hands and will follow anywhere He leads. The shepherds of that day would herd their flock into one pen at the end of the day that might hold many different flocks.



As I said earlier, one shepherd would lie down to sleep in the middle of the pen’s opening. In the morning, each shepherd would come and call their flock and the sheep would run to their own personal shepherd. Now, in this passage, Jesus talks about two different types of sheep.

In **verse 16**, Jesus said,
“I have other sheep who are not of this

sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to My voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.’

What a beautiful way to describe evangelism. Jesus gave us a picture of a loving shepherd who is concerned about lost sheep, going out to bring them into the fold. The use of sheep to describe Christians is accurate. Sheep are known for their 3 D’s. Dirty, Dumb, and Defenseless. Spiritually, humans fit that same description. We are dirty before Christ, we do not understand anything spiritually until Christ, and with out Christ, we have no defense whatsoever to keep us safe for eternity.

Sheep start each year clipped short, white, and very pretty to look at. But as the year goes on and the wool collects on his body, so too does all dirt and dust that surrounds it. Finally, they are shorn, and that entire dirty coat comes off and they start over anew and clean. We start out nice and pretty too, but then as the world gets more and more of a hold on us, we too, start to get dirty.

1 PETER 2:1-4 tells us,

‘Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander of every kind’

It is only by the hand of the shepherd that the sheep gets to cast off all its dirty outer garment. And, it is only by the hand of our

shepherd, Jesus Christ that we are able to throw off all the dirt in our hearts. Because He died for us, we are covered in His blood.

We have talked about how the shepherd leads the sheep and cares for the sheep. WE have talked about how the sheep are defenseless without the shepherd and need the shepherd for everything they have.

Now, let's talk about something else. Let's talk about ...

3. THE PEN

Let's relate the pen to Heaven for a moment. The sheep go into the pen for safety from the outside world. Christians receive Christ and receive safety from the world.

To be among the sheep in the pen, the sheep must have a shepherd. To be among the saved in Heaven, you must also have the Shepherd. The pen has one way in and so does our salvation. The shepherd guards the entrance in each situation.

Going back to **verse 1**, Jesus makes an extraordinary statement.

'I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.'

If you listen to those in the world, you will hear every possible thought on how we might be able to get into Heaven. Some say you have to get there by your good works. In other words, if you are really good, and make no mistakes, then you will get to Heaven. The trouble is; nobody is good enough to never make a mistake. Then as soon as you do make a mistake where does that leave you?

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Even others say that it doesn't matter what road you take, you will still get to Heaven. That makes as much sense as my telling you it doesn't matter which road you take away from church this morning, it will lead to your house. All you have to do is open your eyes and you will see how wrong that statement is.

Jesus said that anyone who went in the pen any other way, besides the gate, was a robber and thief. In **1 CORINTHIANS 6:10** it tells us that thieves will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Let me make something very clear to everyone who could ever hear my voice. There is only one way into the pen and that is through the gate that is being guarded by the shepherd. And there is only one way into Heaven, and that is, again, through the narrow gate the Good Shepherd guards. If you try any other way, it simply will not work, period.

If you have not accepted Jesus as your personal Christ, you will not go to Heaven. God has already written the rules, and they do not change just because we don't agree with them. The reason this world is having problems today is that we have been busier trying to change the rules than we have been trying to follow them.

As long as the sheep remain in the

pen, they will be totally safe from lions. As long as we stay in Christ, we will also be kept totally safe from the lion that prowls around looking for someone to devour.

The pen is where the shepherd and his sheep commune with each other. He can learn their individual traits and sounds, and they can trust him to care for them even more. When we are in Christ, we give Him the opportunity to know us even better and we will also begin to trust Him more and more for all we need.

We can also equate the pen to the local church. In **HEBREWS 10:25**, we are told to not forsake the gathering together. I don't think that is as much of a strict command as it is a loving plea. *"Please come into My holy house with other believers and see what a beautiful time it will be for you."*

And, as Jesus warned us, there would be others who are not real shepherds. Let's talk now a little about ...

4. THE THIEVES

It is possible for a robber to climb the fence, get into the pen, and lead some sheep astray. Likewise, in the local church it is possible for some who just claim to be Christians to come in and lead others astray, too.

They will not be obvious. They will not be wearing masks and carrying flashlights. They will be people you have known and trusted for years. But they will not have the agenda of the Lord God in their hearts; they will have their own agendas in their hearts. And the Lord God will deal brutally with them unless they repent of their ways.

But, do not dismay. Be of good

cheer. We are to be joyous and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Watchman who stands watch over each one of us. He guards us and He yearns to know us more and more. He loves us.

We have a set of instructions to help keep us safe. They were given to us out of God's love for us, and desire to keep us whole.

- We are to work at knowing Jesus more so we can recognize our shepherd
- We need to follow Him, rely on Him for cleansing, and trust Him to keep us
- We must look for those sheep who are not yet into the fold
- Keep a time and place to commune personally with Jesus – every day.

We must come to understand and accept that which the Jews in this passage could not. In **verse19**, it says, 'At these words, the Jews were again divided.'

I have been trying to show you how we fit perfectly into the images of sheep being led by their master. I have tried to show you the similarities and some of the things to watch out for – all for your spiritual safety.

We must be aware of one thing many of us either skim over, or just don't pay attention to. The God of this universe; the God who created every single thing; wants more than anything to have a very personal and loving relationship with each one of us.

Jesus called Zacchaeus by name because He wanted a relationship with Him. At the empty tomb, Jesus called out to Mary because He knew her. And Jesus is calling out to you this morning, because He wants to know you, too.



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