

# The Gospel of John

## Lesson #85

### The Journey

Jim Hoffman

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The Gospel of John				
Event	Scripture	Year	Mth/Day	
John the Baptist Begins Preaching	John 1:19-28		26	20-Apr
Jesus Turns Water to Wine in Cana	John 2:1-11		26	23-Oct
Jesus Goes to Capernaum with Family/Disciples	John 2:12		26	30-Oct
Jesus Goes to Jerusalem For 27 AD Passover	John 2:13		27	6-Apr
First Time Jesus Cleanses the Temple	John 2:14-17		27	25-Apr
Nicodemus Comes to Jesus at Night	John 3:1-21		27	1-May
Jesus Departs for Galilee by Way of Samaria	John 4:3-4		27	8-May
Jesus and Disciples Arrive in Samaria	John 4:5-6		27	11-May
Jesus Speaks with Samaritan Woman at Jacob's well	John 4:5-38		27	11-May
Jesus is Welcomed in Galilee	John 4:45		27	7-Jul
Jesus Heals a Nobleman's Son-Second Sign in Cana	John 4:46-54		27	10-Jul
Jesus Heals Paralytic on Sabbath	John 5:1-16		28	26-Apr
Jesus Goes to the Sea of Galilee as Passover Approaches	John 6:1-4		29	4-Mar
Jesus Walks on Water of the Sea of Galilee	John 6:16-21		29	6-Mar
Jesus is the Bread of Life in Capernaum	John 6:22-59		29	7-Mar
Many Followers Reject Jesus and His Teaching	John 6:60-66		29	8-Mar
Feast of Dedication	John 10:22		29	25-Dec

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### The Gospel of John

• John 10:1 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door 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. 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.” 6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 4

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### The Gospel of John

- Chapter 10 begins with the rightful shepherd of his sheep standing by the door of the sheepfold – he is not trying to sneak his way in or crawl over the wall.
- The legitimate shepherd of the sheep comes right through the front door and calls his sheep by name –
- Verse #3 “To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” 5

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### The Gospel of John

- John 10:19 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?”
- This text provides the context for us – chapter 10 opens up contiguously to the events of chapter 9.
- Remember – there were no chapters and verses in the original writings of the Bible. 6

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### The Gospel of John

- So, chapter 10 is a continuation of the events and mood of chapter 9 – the enemies of Jesus are now overtly out to get him and they are listening to him as chapter 10 opens.
- Jesus opens a new topic, that of he being the Good Shepherd of the sheep (his elect) and how his motivation is different from the leaders of Judaism.
- He is concerned with protecting and providing for his sheep while the “Jews” were concerned with “fleecing” their sheep.

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### The Gospel of John

- You will recall the man in John 9 who was given his sight by Jesus, was unsynagogued for not betraying Jesus when he testified as to who it was who healed him.
- He was once allegedly being cared for his spiritual leaders in a place that was to provide some security for him – his local synagogue.
- For the “crime” of telling the truth he was kicked out of his synagogue and shunned by it and the members of his family.

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### The Gospel of John

- Being part of the local synagogue benefited the members with some protection and some security beyond anything spiritual – social and economic security as well.
- As chapter 10 opens Jesus is going to use a sheep pen (sheepfold) as a metaphor for Judaism and the local synagogue.
- When we see Jesus talking about the sheepfold in chapter 10, we should understand he is talking about these false shepherds who climbed over the wall into the sheepfold.

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### The Gospel of John

- The “shepherds” of Judaism had long ago ceased going to the door and calling for their sheep – in a sense they had broken in and were profiting from the sheep.
- They were thieves and robbers – they could not assemble a flock of their own with their message of, “give your money to me so I don’t have to work like you do”.
- They had to steal by deception – “obey our rules and you will be in good standing with Messiah when he comes”. 10

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### The Gospel of John

- I’ve been telling you that in Jesus’ day Judaism had become a corrupt religion – but that was not actually a new development.
- It seems that any time men have power without checks and balances on them, corruption sets in, and people get hurt.
- When it’s a religion that is corrupted, the consequences are far worse than with a secular institution – listen to the words of God through Ezekiel 600 years prior to John 10. 11

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### The Gospel of John

• Ezekiel 34:1 The word of the Lord came to me: 2 “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? 3 You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. 4 The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. 5 So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered; 6a they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill.

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### The Gospel of John

• Ezekiel 34:6b My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them. 7 “Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: 8 As I live, declares the Lord God, surely because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep, 9 therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: 10 Thus says the Lord God, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep. No longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them.

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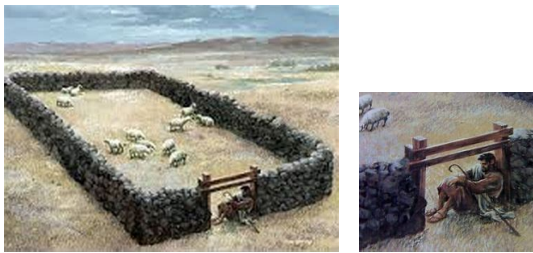
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### Village Sheepfold



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### Wilderness Sheepfold



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### The Gospel of John

- Sheep are not known for or thought of as the apex of intelligence in the animal kingdom – in fact, they have a reputation of being rather low in intelligence.
- However, God did equip them with some traits that help them to survive – they can discern voices and they have a built-in desire to comply with and know their shepherd.
- When using a village sheepfold, the ability for the shepherd to call his sheep and have them respond was essential – otherwise another shepherd could claim his sheep.

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### The Gospel of John

- It was not at all uncommon for shepherds to name the sheep in their flock – and of course call them by name.
- John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
- A shepherd would be so familiar with his own flock that he could identify them by name and probably by personality traits – and his sheep spent so much time with him that they would know his voice and follow him.

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### The Gospel of John

- Sheep cannot defend themselves - They are not fast, nor are they are armed with claws, sharp teeth, a roar, or an imposing size.
- They are very docile – do you know anyone who is afraid of sheep?
- Sheep are not brave – they are very fearful and skiddish, so much so they are afraid to drink from running water – “He leadeth me beside the still water”.

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### The Gospel of John

- Sheep NEED shepherds – and if we extend the sheep metaphor as it is intended, we could conclude that we need a Shepherd.
- We need to hear the voice of the Great Shepherd so that we can follow him – otherwise we would soon be leading ourselves and go off the (spiritual) cliff.
- Like sheep who cannot see danger coming, we too can be blinded by sin and walk swiftly into a trap of the enemy.

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### The Gospel of John

- Like it or not, we are compared to sheep in the Bible – prone to wander, mostly oblivious to danger, and in desperate need of someone to follow.
- Without a shepherd we tend to get lost and worse yet, we often don't even know that we are lost – we are incapable on our own of making our way through life safely.
- We need someone to stay close to and follow through life or our lives will not end well – we need someone who would rather die than have us go off the nearby cliffs.

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### The Gospel of John

- We need (and want) a shepherd who will say to our enemies, "over my dead body" to all who threaten to harm us.
- We need (and want) a shepherd who will stand between ourselves and all that would seek to pry us away from the one who died for us.
- We need (and want) a shepherd who will keep us from our own self-harming inclinations and will stop us in our tracks if that is what it takes.

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### The Gospel of John

Shepherd to sheep is a picture of God’s relationship to his people. We would not survive long at all in this world without our Shepherd. We need him more than we often know – from the day we are born, perhaps even before, our Great Shepherd is watching over us and providing for us in ways that we do not and cannot know because much of his provision is keeping us from things that never happened because he either removes the threats or steers us away from them. Like parents who “baby proof” their homes our Great Shepherd oversees our environment so that we do not fall of cliffs or walk into the view of wolves. Perhaps in eternity we will be shown the times when we were kept safe and preserved from dangers that we never felt threatened by or even saw.

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### The Gospel of John

- It would appear the first 6 verses of John 10 are speaking of the village sheepfold – one where multiple flocks were kept at night and guarded by a common doorkeeper.
- The shepherds would tend to their flocks all day and at night, so they could sleep, the sheep would be in the village sheepfold.
- In the morning, the shepherds would come and *“To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.”*

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### The Gospel of John

- There was no need for the shepherd to tag or number his sheep – he knew them, so well that he called them by name, and his sheep knew him as well.
- The shepherd would come to the door of the sheepfold, the porter would open the gate, he would enter, call his sheep, they would come to him, and he would lead them out.
- The shepherd did not drive his sheep, he simply walked towards the grassy areas and water he knew about, and the sheep would follow – no leashes, just by familiarity.

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### The Gospel of John

- John 10:4 “When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.”
- Good shepherds had no need to drive their sheep – his sheep trusted him enough to follow wherever the shepherd led, no questions, just obedience.
- “When he has brought out all his own” – the good shepherd does not lose sheep. (John 18:9 Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one)

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### The Gospel of John

John 10:25 Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 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.

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Questions?

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