

JOHN #11: John 9:39 - 10:42

Jesus: The Door & the Good Shepherd

“Blindness, sight, and hearing his voice”

- I. Backdrop: Jesus just healed a man that was blind since birth. After he stood strong on the wonderful work of what Jesus had done for him, the Pharisees kicked him out of the temple reviling him as just some ignorant fool who knew nothing. At this point Jesus came and found him and revealed to him that he is the Son of God. This man who had not seen for many years not only received his physical sight, but now (on the same day) received his spiritual sight to see and believe in Jesus, the Son of God. Upon this revelation he fell to the ground and worshipped Jesus, the great I am.

- II. Overview: Jesus reveals the reality that he came into this world for judgment so that those who are blind and want to see can see, but that those who think they know everything can be made blind. He then speaks a parable about a shepherd and his rightful access and loving relationship with his sheep (as opposed to thieves, robbers, and strangers. Jesus then interprets this parable and reveals ultimately that he is both the Door into the sheepfold and that he is the Good Shepherd of the sheep. Jesus reveals some powerful truths regarding his sacrifice, atonement, and resurrection. He also prophesies of the calling of the Gentiles into the same body. He also reveals the importance of the intimate relationship he has with his Father and with his sheep and their guarantee of eternal life with him and his Father. He finally reveals the only hope the Pharisees and priests have to come to faith in Christ. This is a very key and important passage of Scripture for many reasons. Most importantly, it is more opportunity to hear the voice of our Good Shepherd.

- III. Outline:
 - A. Judgment, Blindness, & Sight (9:39-41):
 1. Jesus came into this world for judgment!
 - a. That they which see not might see.
 - b. That they who are blind might see.
 - * He didn't come to judge the world the first time, but the Father sent him into the world to save it.

- * However, he came to reveal righteous judgment by shining the true light to reveal who wants light and who wants darkness.
 - * Blindness & light: Isaiah 29:18-19; 9:2; Matthew 13:12-17; Acts 9 (the conversion story of Paul); Revelation 3:17-18.
2. The Pharisees ask if they are blind.
 3. Jesus responds:
 - a. If they were blind, they should have no sin.
 - i. Possibly referring to if they were blind like the publicans and harlots (truly lost and confused) then they would have repented and come to Christ and been forgiven.
 - b. But because they say that they see, their sin remains.
 - i. Because they think they are the “guides to the blind”. (Romans 2:17-19).
 - ii. They think they know everything, so how can they learn from Christ?
- B. The Parable of the Shepherd & his Sheep (10:1-6):
1. The Characters:
 - a. Thief & Robber: climbs up some other way; does not enter the door
 - b. The Shepherd: he enters by the door, calls & leads his sheep.
 - c. The Porter: opens the door for the shepherd only.
 - d. The Sheep: only follow their shepherd.
 - e. Stranger: not the shepherd; the sheep flees from him.
 2. Key Things:
 - a. The door: the only legal way in and out of the pasture.
 - b. The sheepfold: the safe place where the sheep dwell.
 3. Basic Story:
 - a. Whoever does not enter in by the door is a thief and a robber.
 - b. Only the shepherd of the sheep enters in through the door.
 - c. The porter opens up for the shepherd only.
 - d. The sheep hear the shepherd’s voice (vs 27). He calls them by name and they follow him. He leads them out to find pasture and goes before them and they follow him. The sheep will not follow the voice of strangers but will flee from strangers.
- C. The Interpretation & Exposition of the Parable (10:7-18):
1. Jesus is the DOOR!
 - a. The only way to be saved (vs9).
 - i. The only way to the Father (14:6)
 - b. Jesus humanity, flesh-and-blood, his death on the cross is the door.

- i. The blood was on the doorposts for passover.
 - ii. His flesh is said to be the VEIL that is ripped in twain to give access in and out of the most holy place. (Heb 10:19-20)
 - iii. Only through Christ's body and blood (death on the cross) can we enter into the sheepfold and go out with him for pasture.
 - (a) His cross is the only legal way for us to have true access into the citizenship of the saints. (Ephesians 2:11-19)
 - c. The only way to enter the kingdom of God is through MUCH tribulation (Acts 14:22).
 - i. This is why we must DIE with Christ in order to enter through the door.
 - ii. This is why we take up our cross to truly follow Christ.
2. Anyone else who came before Jesus is a thief and a robber.
- a. This would definitely refer to FALSE Christs and false prophets.
 - b. Also, the devil himself is the ultimate thief in the spiritual realm.
 - c. The thief comes to:
 - i. Steal (sheep that don't belong to him in order to make profit)
 - ii. Kill (sheep to devour them)
 - iii. Destroy (the sheep to hide the evidence)
3. The Stranger is a Hireling.
- a. He is paid to watch the sheep but the sheep don't belong to him.
 - b. When the wolf comes he leaves the sheep and flees.
 - i. Because he doesn't care about the sheep.
 - ii. So the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.
4. Jesus is the Good Shepherd
- a. He came to bring LIFE and life more abundantly.
 - b. He gives his life for the sheep.
 - c. He knows his sheep.
 - d. He is known by his sheep.
 - e. He knows the Father as the Father knows him.
 - f. He lays down his life for the sheep.
 - i. The Father LOVES him for this!
 - ii. No man takes his life from HIM;
 - iii. He has power to lay it down AND to take it back again (cross & resurrection).
 - * He received this commandment from his FATHER!
 - g. He will call other sheep (which are not of that fold) and bring them into the SAME fold (Gentiles will be grafted in!):

- i. They shall hear HIS voice (Ephesians 4:20-21).
 - ii. There shall be 1 fold and 1 shepherd (Ephesians 2-4)!
 - h.
 - D. Division, Controversy, & Contempt (10:19-21):
 - 1. Many say he has a devil.
 - 2. Others say he can't have a devil.
 - a. These are not the words of one with a devil.
 - b. Can one with a devil open the eyes of the blind?
 - E. Jesus (the Good Shepherd) is ONE with his Father (10:22-30)
 - 1. At the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah)
 - a. Was instituted in 168 BC by the Maccabees when they fought against the Seleucid army and reclaimed Jerusalem and the temple. They then re-dedicated the temple to the LORD after it had been desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes.
 - 2. On Solomon's Porch
 - a. Just ironic because God promised David that he would have a son that would sit on the throne and that he would be his Father and he would be his Son. Jesus is the Son of God himself, the fulfillment of the seed of David. And here he is on the porch of Solomon revealing himself as the Son of the Father (sent by the Father).
 - 3. The works of Christ bear witness of HIM
 - a. Even though the Pharisees CAN'T BELIEVE in JESUS or HEAR his voice (because they are not his sheep), they can still believe in Christ's works so that through this they can come to faith in Christ.
 - b. Jesus says if he doesn't do the works of the Father, they shouldn't believe in him.
 - 4. TRUE Eternal Security:
 - a. Christ's SHEEP:
 - i. Hear his voice.
 - ii. He knows them.
 - iii. They FOLLOW him.
 - iv. He gives them ETERNAL LIFE.
 - v. They shall NEVER perish.
 - vi. They are in Christ's hand! (no man can pluck them out of his hand).
 - vii. They are in the Father's hand! (The Father is GREATER than all and NO MAN can pluck them out of his hand).
- * Jesus gave NO EXCEPTIONS; this is the absolute truth of Christ.

- * These verses don't say that everyone who thinks they are a sheep are saved. These verses don't say that everyone who others think are Christ's sheep are saved. These verses reveal that those that are truly Christ's sheep WILL NEVER BE LOST! This lines up with what Jesus already revealed in 6:37-40. The 2 proofs here given to show who the true sheep of Christ are are:
 - i. His sheep HEAR HIS VOICE.
 - ii. They FOLLOW HIM.
 - * And remember earlier: he said his sheep will NOT hear the voice of strangers and they will NOT follow strangers. So according to Jesus, his true sheep cannot end up in some false cult following false prophets/teachers, etc. This is an impossibility. His sheep hear HIS voice and follow HIM.
5. Christ and the Father are ONE!
- a. This is another GREAT TESTIMONY of his deity.
 - b. The Jews completely understood what he was saying.
 - They want to stone him. But it is not his time yet.

GOING Forward: Jesus' public messages to the Pharisees is just about done at this point. It is the proverbial "winter" in their spiritual hope. Just about all hope for them is gone. They are not Christ's sheep. Therefore, they cannot hear his voice. They cannot understand his word. They cannot believe on him (directly). It is impossible. However they still have one last hope. And their only hope is to humble themselves and admit that the works of Jesus must be the works of the Christ. If they will humble themselves to what they can see, there is hope that they can come to believe in what they cannot see. And in the next chapter, Jesus will do his GREATEST and most undeniable miracle yet: he will raise a man from the dead who was dead and buried for 4 days! Jesus is faithful to even the faithless and unbelieving.