



Lesson 43 – The Divine Shepherd

Based on John 10:1-30

- 1) What had just happened previous to the opening of our lesson today?

John 9:6-7 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he _____ the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, _____ in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

The Pharisees and Sadducees had excommunicated the blind man and reviled Jesus for His good work. The Blind man made whole worshipped Jesus, and the religious people were left with something to think about.

- 2) What did Jesus tell his detractors?

John 9:39-41 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made _____. And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your _____ remaineth.

- 3) What parable did Jesus give to those who came to hear Him?

John 10:1-5 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the _____ into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a _____ and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by _____, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his _____. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of _____.

- 4) Did they understand?

John 10:6 This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood _____ what things they were which he spake unto them.

- 5) What did He come out and directly tell them?

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his _____ for the sheep.

Again, Jesus found access to the minds of His hearers by the pathway of their familiar associations. He had likened the Spirit's influence to the cool, refreshing water. He had represented Himself as the light, the source of life and gladness to nature and to man. Now in a beautiful pastoral picture He represents His relation to those that believe on Him. No picture was more familiar to His hearers than this, and Christ's words linked it forever with Himself. Never could the disciples look on the shepherds tending their flocks without recalling the Saviour's lesson.

- 6) What did Isaiah say about Christ's ministry?

Isaiah 40:10-11 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his _____ is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a _____: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.



7) How did David describe Him?

Psalm 23:1-2 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not _____. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still _____.

8) What wonderful words did Ezekiel give us?

Ezekiel 34:23 And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall _____ them, and he shall be their shepherd.

Ezekiel 34:16 I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was _____, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was _____: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.

Christ applied these prophecies to Himself, and He showed the contrast between His own character and that of the leaders in Israel. The Pharisees had just driven one from the fold, because he dared to bear witness to the power of Christ. They had cut off a soul whom the True Shepherd was drawing to Himself.

Jesus now set before them the contrast between them and the Good Shepherd, and He pointed to Himself as the real keeper of the Lord's flock. Before doing this, however, He speaks of Himself under another figure.

9) What was it?

John 10:1-2 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that _____ not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the _____.

10) What did Jesus say to the hard hearted hearers so they could understand?

John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, _____ the door of the sheep.

11) How did He reinforce that?

John 10:9-10 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be _____, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have _____, and that they might have it more abundantly.

12) What did He say about the Priests and Pharisees?

John 10:8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not _____ them.

Christ is the door to the fold of God. Through this door all His children, from the earliest times, have found entrance. In Jesus, as shown in types, as shadowed in symbols, as manifested in the revelation of the prophets, as unveiled in the lessons given to His disciples, and in the miracles wrought for the sons of men, they have beheld **“the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29)**, and through Him they are brought within the fold of His grace.

13) What did Ezekiel's prophecy foretell about the times Jesus was walking the Earth?

Ezekiel 34:4 The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye _____ up that which was _____, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.



The Pharisees had not entered by the door. They had climbed into the fold by another way than Christ, and they were not fulfilling the work of the true shepherd. The priests and rulers, the scribes and Pharisees, destroyed the living pastures, and defiled the wellsprings of the water of life.

In all ages, philosophers and teachers have been presenting to the world theories by which to satisfy the soul's need. Every heathen nation has had its great teachers and religious systems offering some other means of redemption than Christ, turning the eyes of men away from the Father's face, and filling their hearts with fear of Him who has given them only blessing. The trend of their work is to rob God of that which is His own, both by creation and by redemption.

Christ came that He might re-create the image of God in man; and whoever turns men away from Christ is turning them away from the source of true development; he is defrauding them of the hope and purpose and glory of life. He is a thief and a robber.

14) What did Christ say of Himself?

John 10:2 But he that entereth in by the door is the _____ of the sheep.

15) What does Christ do?

John 10:3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by _____, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep _____ him: for they know his voice.

Of all creatures the sheep is one of the most timid and helpless, and in the East the shepherd's care for his flock is untiring and incessant. Anciently as now, there was little security outside of the walled towns. Marauders from the roving border tribes, or beasts of prey from their hiding places in the rocks, lay in wait to plunder the flocks. The shepherd watched his charge, knowing that it was at the peril of his own life.

16) How did Jacob describe the job?

Genesis 31:40 Thus I was; in the day the drought _____ me, and the frost by night; and my sleep departed from mine eyes.

It was while guarding his father's sheep that the boy David, single-handed, encountered the lion and the bear, and rescued from their teeth the stolen lamb.

17) Who's are you?

Ezekiel 34:31 And ye my flock, the _____ of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.

Isaiah 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have _____ thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

As the shepherd leads his flock over the rocky hills, through forest and wild ravines, to grassy nooks by the riverside; as he watches them on the mountains through the lonely night, shielding from robbers, caring tenderly for the sickly and feeble, his life comes to be one with theirs. A strong and tender attachment unites him to the objects of his care. However large the flock, the shepherd knows every sheep. Everyone has its name and responds to the name at the shepherd's call.



18) What wonderful illustration did God give us through Isaiah?

Isaiah 49:15-16 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may _____, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my _____; thy walls are continually before me.

Jesus knows us individually and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows us all by name. He knows the very house in which we live, the name of each occupant.

19) What did Jeremiah reveal about the Father?

Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an _____ love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

It is not the fear of punishment, or the hope of everlasting reward, that leads the disciples of Christ to follow Him. They behold the Saviour's matchless love, revealed throughout His pilgrimage on earth, from the manger of Bethlehem to Calvary's cross, and the sight of Him attracts, it softens and subdues the soul. Love awakens in the heart of the beholders. They hear His voice, and they follow Him.

20) What does Jesus do for us?

John 10:4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his _____.

As the shepherd goes before his sheep, himself first encountering the perils of the way, so does Jesus with His people. The way to heaven is consecrated by the Saviour's footprints. The path may be steep and rugged, but Jesus has traveled that way; His feet have pressed down the cruel thorns, to make the pathway easier for us. Every burden that we are called to bear He Himself has borne.

21) How safe are you with God?

John 10:28-29 And I give unto them _____; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's _____.

Though now He has ascended to the presence of God, and shares the throne of the universe, Jesus has lost none of His compassionate nature. Today the same tender, sympathizing heart is open to all the woes of humanity. Today the hand that was pierced is reached forth to bless more abundantly His people that are in the world.

The soul that has given himself to Christ is more precious in His sight than the whole world. The Saviour would have passed through the agony of Calvary that one might be saved in His kingdom. He will never abandon one for whom He has died. Unless His followers choose to leave Him, He will hold them fast.

Can you see Jesus is Our Shepherd?

Do you know His voice?

When is the time to follow when He calls?