

Woodland Baptist Church
 July 27, 2014 - Morning Worship
 John 10:22-33, The Good Shepherd, Part 3

1) INTRODUCTION

2) READ JOHN 10

a) The harsh reality is that there are two types of shepherds: true and false.

i) There are shepherds that are **truly called by God**, that truly love the sheep, that truly love you, want to protect you and see you thrive spiritually. They will not always make you feel good, they will teach the truth of the gospel, and the truth shall set you free.

ii) There are **shepherds that are false** - they are not truly called by God; they may seem to love you, and want to protect you...but inwardly, they are "ravenous wolves." They are not about promoting Christ...they are about promoting themselves to the detriment of the church and the sheep.

(1) **Matthew 7:15** - 15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

(2) **Acts 20:28-30** - Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

3) **Verses 1-2** - The TRUE Shepherd uses the DOOR to the sheepfold...is allowed access and is recognized...the Door to spiritual abundance is CHRIST.....The Good Shepherd sacrifices HIMSELF for the SHEEP...The Hired Hand sacrifices the SHEEP for HIMSELF....There is only one true SHEPHERD for one true FLOCK
The shepherd gives his LIFE by the will of the FATHER...The TRUTH always causes DIVISION

4) **Verses 22-24 Christ's TEACHING frustrates UNBELIEVERS**

- a) **22 Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. 24 The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."**
- i) What was the **Festival of Dedication**? You will not find it in Mosaic Law as one of the feasts the Jews were commanded by God to celebrate, so where did it come from?
 - ii) It was ordained by the Jewish people in memory of the re-capture and restoration of the temple in the late first century B.C. It is also called "Hannukah" and is the holiday the Jewish people celebrate on December 25th also known as the Festival of Lights.
 - iii) This 8 day festival celebrated the rededication of the temple in December 164 B.C. after its desecration by the Seleucid ruler Antiochus Epiphanes and the successful Maccabean revolt which resulted in a period of Jewish independence lasting until 63 B.C.¹
- (1) Again we see Christ using an established time of celebration to speak of his deity and his mission as the Son of God.
- b) **It was winter, 23 and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. 24 The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."**
- i) **It was winter** - certainly accurate for the climate as well as theologically, as it would have been December, so the weather would have been cold...but it is also true theologically, as the Jews continued to be cold and hardened toward Christ and his mission.
 - ii) **Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade** - since the weather was cold, Solomon's Colonnade provided more shelter from the wind, plus this would be the gathering place of the early Christian Church according to the testimony of the book of Acts - very significant that Christ would teach at this location at this time.
- c) **24 The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."** [We can sense the frustration in the question]

¹ Bock, 309

- i) We see the Jewish leadership never letting up on Christ - as they “gathered around him” - surrounding him, no doubt trying to intimidate him.
 - (1) “How long will you keep us in suspense / doubt / guessing?”
 - (2) “If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly”
- ii) Jesus had riddled them with parabolic teachings that seemed to only confuse them and enrage them - he had called them thieves, robbers, hired hands... wolves... have you never had someone that spoke cryptically to you all the time? Then, they looked at you like were stupid because you didn't get what they were saying? Then sometimes you just laugh like you understand when you really don't? That's a little of what is going on here but it's much more serious because Christ is talking to the “teachers of Israel” as he called Nicodemus, but yet none of them seem to be able to understand what he talking about.
- d) The reason is because they were faithless people - they did not believe - they were resisting Christ, they did not want to believe him, they hated him and their jealousy and hatred blinded them from the truth.
 - i) As we know, Jesus would never tell them publicly and plainly that he was “Messiah,” that term at this time in Israel would be greatly misunderstood; he would tell certain ones during private ministry that he was (woman at the well, Nicodemus, apostles), but never publicly and openly to Jewish leadership. The closest he would come was the day he entered Jerusalem in accordance with the Scriptures - Triumphal entry - that day he allowed himself to proclaimed Messiah, but he never used the Word.
 - e) Christ's teachings frustrated unbelievers
- 5) **Verses 25-30 Christ's SHEEP are UN-SNATCHABLE**
 - a) **25 Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”**

- b) Notice the characteristics of the true people of God based on these verses [which are repetitive from chapter 10]:
- i) *My sheep listen to my voice* - that's what real sheep do, they listen to the voice of the shepherd and they follow him - that is what he spent the majority of this chapter teaching - Christ's true sheep hang on his Word - we are bread addicts - we are addicted to the Bread of Life/ Words of Life.
 - ii) *I know them* (experientially) - how do you get to know someone? You listen to them...God is the same way, we listen to his voice, we communicate with him through listening and praying to Him - there is a real relationship forming between the two that is eternal and unbreakable.
 - iii) *They follow me* - we are in companionship together; what do you do with someone that you are in companionship with - you will be in their presence, you will follow them around, you will seek time with them.
 - iv) *I give them eternal life* - think for a moment about our lives with our spouses. I could not imagine life without Angie; I've been married to her 13 years this year; it seems like an eternity...JUST KIDDING! Seriously a faithful, loving wife imparts life to us, they encourage us, they comfort us, they nurture us... or something is wrong...that is exactly what Christ gives us as his sheep, except it is not only temporal...it's eternal...it goes beyond this life in the flesh, it lasts through all eternity. Jesus gives us real abundant life spiritually, he sees us through...he nourishes us, protects us, loves us, helps us.
 - v) *They shall never perish...no one will snatch them out of my hand* - Christ combines thought flow from his conversation with Nicodemus to the Good Shepherd parable - you will not perish, and you cannot be snatched, no matter how hard the wolf tries to snatch and scatter - we are safe and secure as sheep in his flock!
- c) **29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."**
- i) *The Father has given the sheep to Jesus is great than all* - we remember the drawing that Christ spoke of in chapter 6? How does Christ explain people are drawn - **45 It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— 46 not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. 47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.**

(1) Paul would concur with Jesus - faith comes by hearing the Word of God - Everyone who has *heard and learned from the Father* comes to me... whoever believes has eternal life - NOT everyone...but everyone "who believes."

ii) *The Father is greater than all* - he is ancient of days! He is the Triune God - there is absolutely no one in heaven or earth or under the earth that can touch him, change him or hurt him. He is the greatest in the universe and beyond. Jesus' point is that if he is the greatest of all and we who are in Christ are in the Father - who has the strength to remove us??

(1) He resides in a house built without hands; he is Spirit and eternal; he is all powerful; He created us in His image; He placed the stars in their place; He created DNA; He orchestrates the Nebulas in space; He knits us together in the womb - he is greater than all!

iii) *no one can snatch [harpazo, quickly grab] them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."*

(1) The wolf can try...but he can't snatch and ensnare true believers that truly listen to Jesus and follow the true shepherd.

(2) We can't be taken away from Jesus because he and the Father are one and we are safe and secure in Him.

(3) It's because in Him we are more than conquerors!!

(a) Tribulation? No. Distress? No. Persecution? No. Famine? No. Nakedness? No. Danger? No. Sword? No.

(b) Death nor life...angels or rulers...present nor future...powers...height nor depth...nor anything else in all creation - can separate us from the love of Christ - NO ONE CAN SNATCH US!

iv) **Deuteronomy 6:4** - Hear; O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

d) Christ's sheep are UN-Snatchable

6) **Verses 31-33** Blindness to spiritual TRUTH creates a **CALLOUSED** heart

a) **31** Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, **32** but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" **33** "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."