



The Good Shepherd And The Sheep

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (John 10:11).

Bulletin VCMPJ38

11 March 2015

Jesus' teaching on the good shepherd and the sheep (John 10:1-30) has a number of important lessons for every Christian worth his / her salt.

- 1) There could be many ways that thieves could use to access the sheepfold, but only one door manned by a porter that the good shepherd uses. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth 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 sheep. To him the porter openeth... (vs 1-3).
- 2) The shepherd calls his sheep by name and lead them. The sheep know his voice and follow "... and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, 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 voice" (vs 3,4).
- 3) Sheep do not follow strangers whose voice they do not know "And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers" (vs 5,14).
- 4) Jesus is the only true door to the sheep, salvation and pasture "Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" (vs 7-9). Hearing and following Jesus guides into divine protection, provision and prosperity.
- 5) The mission of the shepherd and the thief are diametrically opposed "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep (vs 10-11).
- 6) A hireling will not take the same level of risk as the shepherd for the sheep "But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).

leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep... As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep (vs 12-15).

- 7) God's will is to bring all the sheep into one fold "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" (vs 16).
- 8) Jesus' sacrifice for the sheep is voluntary "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father (vs 17-18).
- 9) Believing in Jesus, knowing His voice and following Him are the indisputable evidence of being His sheep "But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (vs 26-27).
- 10) The benefit of being a sheep is the possession of eternal life and divine protection "And I give unto them eternal life; 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 hand" (vs 28-29).
- 11) Jesus concluded his teaching by reiterating the fact that the religious Jews did not want to hear "I and my Father are one" (vs 30). We must not be silenced by opposition. The truth must be said for those who have ears to hear, irrespective of how many do not want it to be said.