

John 10:1-18 If Jesus is the shepherd, what does that make us?

Read John 10:1-18

1. Jesus words are steeped in Old Testament allusions. Read together Ezekiel 34. How does Ezekiel help you understand the meaning of Jesus' words?

2. This teaching of Jesus is not spoken into a vacuum, they are being heard by the man born blind, the Pharisees, and the disciples. Read John 9. From the context how would the teaching of Jesus land in the lives of...

i) The man born blind:

ii) The Pharisees:

(note that in John 10: 19-21 they say he has a demon to discredit him and by 10:31-33 they want to stone him to death – what did they hear that stirred up such a strong reaction?)

iii) The disciples:

3. What contrasts does Jesus make in these verses between his shepherding of his people, and the false shepherds? Who would the false shepherds be in our world today? How can we become more attentive to Jesus' voice, and less attentive to the false shepherds?

4. There are many metaphors used in the bible to communicate our relationship to God. It is as Father to a son, King to a servant, Bridegroom to a bride, and here Shepherd to a sheep. In the sermon Tim mentioned that the primary truth the image was seeking to communicate about us is that we are entirely dependant upon the shepherd, entirely dependant upon God. In what ways do we resist this truth? What impact does it have on our lives when we resist this truth?

5. From the imagery that Jesus uses in John 10:1-18 what makes him the good, the lovely shepherd? What distinguishing mark of his goodness is repeated three times in these verses? Does seeing these aspects of his goodness lead you to admit your dependent need and place more trust in him?

6. In the sermon Tim mentioned the Navigators exercise. Separating your life out into all its areas (relational, recreational, financial, sexual, etc) and ask yourself two questions. 1) Am I willing to obey all that I know God is asking me to do in this area? 2) Am I willing to thank God for all he is bringing into these areas? In what ways are these questions a good test of how much we are expressing our dependence upon Jesus as our shepherd?