

The True Shepherd

July 5, 2026
John 10:1-6

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Scripture's Shepherd Theme

- Scripture is filled with the theme of a shepherd^{Isa40:11; Ezek34:1-16; Jer23:1-4; Zech11:15-17 ...}
- Psalm 23 is the most picturesque
- Jesus' words in John 10 were misunderstood^{10:6}
- Context is key to understanding Jesus's words

Failing to Take the Narrative in Context

- John gives us clues - immediately follows healing of blind man^{9:7}
- No transitional words... 'after this,' or 'on the next...'
- After man healed, no celebration, but inquisition & man was cast out^{9:34}

Some Helpful Judean Background

- Jesus drew imagery from the sheep industry of Judea...
- Large central sheepfold where flocks brought at night - sheep all mixed up
- Gatekeeper admitted shepherds who called sheep to follow him

Thieves and Robbers

- Contrast: some enter by door and others climb in another way¹
- Those who sneak in are thieves & robbers - clergy of the day who cast healed man out^{9:34} and were seeking to kill Jesus^{5:18; 7:1,19-20,25; 8:37,40,59}
- Jesus entered door as promised Messiah
- The sheepfold is Israel; Door is OT promised way of Messiah; gatekeeper is God who opens door to Jesus and releases sheep to Christ's call
- Jesus presented Himself to Judaism but they are rejecting Him
- Jesus now calls out these false shepherds: Ezekiel 34:1-4,11-16
- Jesus has come as the Good Shepherd^{Jn10:11}
- Jesus has not come to restore Judaism but to lead His own unto Himself!

He Calls His Own

- Jesus' own *hear His voice and He calls them by name and leads them out*³...
- Free offer of Gospel^{7:37;10:9, etc.} Jesus calls His own no matter where you are...
- But this is a personal, particular and effective call^{Jn6:37,39} to His own
- How wonderful that Jesus knows and calls us by name
- Matthew^{9:9}; Zacchaeus^{Lk19:1-5}; Lazarus^{Jn11:43 called while dead}, Mary Magdalene^{20:15}
- Palestinian shepherds called their sheep by name... What is your name?
- Jesus uses His Word to call us^{Rom10:17} and *the sheep hear His voice*³

The Good Shepherd Leads

- Jesus declared His sheep will follow Him for they know His voice⁴⁻⁵
- Jesus is the True Shepherd and His sheep will flee from strangers⁵
- The Good Shepherd lays down His life¹⁵ for His sheep
- His called sheep will follow and He will lead them
- Here Jesus calling out of Israel but others also called to God's flock¹⁶
- So let us listen to His voice and obey His Word and follow Jesus
- Our Good Shepherd is gentle and caring: Psalm 23:1-3