

Remnant Life Church
July 14, 2024
Recovering What Has Been Stolen
John 10:1-10

Jesus was the greatest teacher who ever lived

- And He used what we today would call multiple methods to get His points across
- The problem was that the people, often the disciples, did not understand what He was saying

- **READ – John 10:1-10**

- In this passage of Scripture, Jesus uses an analogy to teach the people
 - An analogy is a comparison between two things that are not alike but share a resemblance in on particular aspect

- Theme: The contrast between the Good Shepherd and the bad shepherds of Israel
 - The shepherd was used in the OT to describe a leader – both good and bad - of God’s people (**Isa 40:11, 56:11; Jer 31:10, 50:6**)
 - The Pharisees (those who were supposed to spiritually shepherd and guard the people of Israel) had shown themselves to be corrupt
 - They often ignored the Levitical way to God, handed down by God Himself, and even encouraged the people to try and please God by paying them to intercede on their behalf (...*some other way* – vs 1)

- Jesus uses the example of the sheep knowing the shepherd's voice (**vv. 2-5**)
 - When the sheep were brought to the city, they would often be placed in a common pen if it were late in the day that would be watched over by a gatekeeper or watchman (**v 3**)
 - In the morning, the shepherds would come one by one to get their sheep
 - Each shepherd would use a distinctive call that only his sheep would recognize, and they would come out of the common herd to him
 - Jesus was teaching that the sheep that know His voice will come out from the common pen of the law-driven, now corrupted, Judaism
 - Paul writes of this in **Rom 11:5** “...*a remnant chosen by grace...*”

- Then we read in **v. 6** that the Pharisees do not understand but Jesus gives them a second chance

- He then talks about the true or good shepherd who will protect his flock like the gate of the pen protects the sheep from predators (**vv. 7-10**)

- Jesus calls Himself the gate or door (Gk: *Thurah*)
 - Same word as in **v. 2** but the meaning is different because of the context that Jesus uses it in
 - The pen to keep the sheep in at night was in the pastures and fields
 - It would only have one opening and the shepherd on guard would lay across the opening to keep them in and the predators out

- In essence, the shepherd would become the door or gate
- **Verse 7** Jesus says very plainly, *I am the gate for the sheep*
 - Anyone who came before Him preaching about God was not willing to give their life or lay in the doorway (**v 8**)
 - The reason that people did not follow them was because they did not know their voice; their hearts were not called to them
- But Jesus was then and is today the Good Shepherd (**v 11**) who protects and cares for His sheep (**v 9**)
 - And who is the predator who comes today?
 - *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (10:10)*
- The thief (satan) is still stealing, killing, and destroying today, and his primary target is Christians
 - Jesus calls satan The thief, not just a thief
 - Word for thief in the original language is *Klep-tahs*
 - Kleptomania – the uncontrollable urge to steal
 - He is a compulsive liar and thief, and his sites are on you if you know Jesus Christ as your savior
- What does he want to steal, and how do we get it back?

1. Faith

- a. If your faith is stolen, it will drive you away from God and toward the things of man; even more dangerous, toward yourself
- b. The Power of Deceit
 - **2 Cor 11:3** - *But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*
 - Paul is warning the church against false apostles and teachers
 - But satan is also after our minds so that we will become despondent, give up hope, and seek answers from other sources
 - If he can do that then we can easily get stuck in places that God does not want to be in
- c. Wallowing in Defeat
 - **2 Cor 4:8-9** - *We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.*
 - A failure is not final!
 - The difference between defeat and defeatism
 - Defeat – to best or conquer – circumstances may from time to time defeat us
 - Defeatism – an attitude that accepts defeat as inevitable without a desire to change
 - satan wants us to accept that attitude so that we give up
 - An apparent defeat in your life may actually be a great victory (Just as Jesus' death on the cross)

2. Friends

- a. **Psalm 55:12-14** – *an enemy can be dealt with but not a close friend who betrays*
- b. David is writing this Psalm at a time when he is fleeing from Absalom because his close friend Ahithophel gave him up
- c. Satan will use deception, corruption, and confusion to divide believers
- d. For instance, Job's friends came at first to comfort him, but they stayed to criticize and condemn
- e. That is why it is so important to guard one another in what we say and how we resolve conflict

3. Family

- a. Husband from wife; parents from children; brother from brother and sister from sister
- b. Satan will use business, laziness, and haziness
 - Busyness - too busy to spend the time needed with one another
 - Laziness - don't want to put the effort in that is required for healthy relationships
 - Haziness - failure to recognize when things are getting bad because our focus is on ourselves

- How do we take these things back?

- Friends and Family

- Consider this definition: *A friend is someone who understands your past, believes in your future, and yet still loves and accepts you today just the way you are.*
- Are you that type of friend to others, your family, even yourself?
- The neighborhood sports or dive bar is still a place that those who don't know Jesus would rather go than to church – why?
 - First, make no mistake it is an imitation of what God wants us to have with one another
 - It dispenses drinks instead of living water
 - It offers escape instead of reality
- BUT it is inclusive, permissive, and welcoming
 - People can tell their secrets and know that it won't go any further because they all have them
 - These places don't flourish because everyone who goes in is an alcoholic...
 - It is because God placed in every human heart the desire to be known, to love, and be loved – even if it is imitation love and acceptance
- What are you doing with your friends and family that says, *you are loved just the way you are*
 - That is how we are loved by the Father
 - **Rom 5:8** - *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

- Faith

- **2 Cor 3:12-18** - *Therefore, since we have such a hope (faith), we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

- What is faith?

- **Heb 11:1** - *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*
- Faith is a choice!
 - When satan attempts to steal your faith you need simply to declare who you are
 - The veil Paul writes of is taken away and in that there is freedom
 - Freedom for you to choose the faith of God for your life