

John 10:10

Jesus was teaching in Jerusalem using parables about sheep, shepherds and sheepfolds. A sheepfold is like a corral, a place of safety for sheep. Sheepfolds had a gate and a gate keeper.

(1)

In [John 10:7-9](#), Jesus teaches that all others, who set themselves as door keepers of God's sheepfold, are thieves.

Think about [John 10:10](#).

(Jesus said) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they (the sheep) may have life and have it abundantly.

- What do the thieves intend to do with the sheep?
- What does Jesus intend to do with the sheep?
- Jesus came to give God's sheep abundant (overflowing) life. What is **not** a part of this abundant life?

[Luke 12:15](#) *And he (Jesus) said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness (love of money), for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."*

- How do the Lord's sheep experience this overflowing life? - What is this life?

[John 7:38-39](#) *(Jesus said) "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, ..."*

(2)

Think about [John 10:10-13](#).

(Jesus said) "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they (the sheep) may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."

In this parable Jesus describes two scenes of the sheep, each scene with a different keeper of the sheep (sheep tender).

- What is the threat to the sheep?
- How does Jesus describe the two sheep tenders? How does each deal with the threat to the sheep?
- What does each sheep tender care about?
- What are the two outcomes for the sheep?

- Who is Jesus in this parable?
 - What is the lesson for us?
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(3)

Think about [John 10:14-15](#).

(Jesus said:) "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep."

- Jesus knows his own sheep, just as (in a similar way as) – what?
- Jesus' sheep know Jesus, just as (in a similar way as) – what?

Think about [John 6:41-42](#).

So the Jews grumbled about him (Jesus), because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

- In what way did these unbelieving Jews know Jesus?
- In what way did these unbelieving Jews **not** know Jesus?
- In what way do Jesus' sheep know Jesus? (See John 10:14-15 quoted above.)

Think about [1Corinthians 1:18-21](#).

For the word of the cross is folly (silliness) to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ... Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through (its) wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

- Through what means does God **not** allow people to know him?
 - Through what means does God allow people to know him?
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