

John 10:1-10
Rome Georgia
November 1, 1987
October 12, 2014

Subject: The Good Shepherd.

Theme: The contrast between false shepherds and the true Good Shepherd.

Proposition: Whose voice are you following. Is it the voice of your own inner-self. It will lead you into a bitter pasture fraught with danger. Have you fled from the voice of the false prophets of the day? This is good. But have you heeded the call of the Good Shepherd? This is essential to enjoying good pasture.

1987: OPENED WITH DICK TRACY AND THE VOICE PRINTS. VOICEPRINTS ARE AS DISTINCTIVE AS FINGERPRINTS! (1987 Dick Tracy case in the comic strip. ID the masked bank robber who looks like Pres. Reagan and David Letterman etc.)

Read John 10:1-10

On **Fox and Friends** (FNC) earlier this week, they had on a special guest. It was the actor, **Adam West**, also known as **Bruce Wayne**, alias "**Batman**" from the 1960's TV series of the same name. As soon as Mr. West was seated and began to speak, **his voice was immediately recognizable**. In fact, a few days later, (on 10/11/14) they played a recording of Mr. West introducing that mornings Fox and Friends program. One of the show's hosts commented that people waking up would immediately recognize the voice of Adam West (or "Batman") as their announcers "voice in" introduction.

Obviously, people can **recognize the voice of Adam West** as Batman (even 46 years after the show went off the air) – **because they had heard the voice** of Batman **decades earlier**, and their minds have internalized an association between that voice and Batman,(series ran from 1966-68!)

Currently, we are seeing efforts to identify masked terrorist (who are decapitating hostages) by their specific voice patterns. We now know that **VOICEPRINTS ARE AS DISTINCTIVE AS FINGERPRINTS**.

Fanny Crosby's SPIRITUAL SONG "**I SHALL KNOW HIM BY THE PRINT OF THE NAILS IN HIS HANDS.**"
(As you may be aware, Fanny Crosby was herself blind.)

ACTUALLY, whereas this may well be true in eternity (as Fanny wrote this in anticipation of meeting the Lord there) , **in this earthly life, WE KNOW HIM BY HIS "VOICEPRINTS."**

JOHN10:4 "THE SHEEP FOLLOW HIM, FOR THEY KNOW HIS VOICE."

In John 10:1-6 Jesus speaks a **parable** to the people gathered there – it is a parable based on a familiar scenario, centered on the workings of a shepherd and his sheep and their interaction in the sheepfold.

Granted, for this generation in America, the picture of a sheep and a shepherd is not exactly clear. Bear in mind however, for **most of human history** in the Middle East, this would have been easily grasped.

It is hard for those in our culture to picture what a Palestinian sheepfold was like. We are used to cattle corrals where there is an enclosure with a movable gate that can be closed to contain the animals. In the Holy Land however, a typical sheepfold is "usually a low circular enclosure, on one side of which is an opening about 6 feet wide - the only place where entrance may be gained without climbing over the wall. There is no

door that can be closed and locked - no gate or barrier of any kind. They are unnecessary, and were never provided, for at nightfall the shepherd will stand in this breach and call his sheep, counting one by one until all are safely within the shelter. THEN, WITH HIS STAFF BY HIS SIDE, HE LIES DOWN IN THE DOORWAY AND SLEEPS WITH HIS BODY ACROSS THE OPENING. THE DOOR THEREFORE IS NOT AN ORDINARY ONE OF WOOD OR IRON, BUT ACTUALLY A LIVING PERSON!..." db 5-1-71.

THE FIRST QUESTION WE MAY HAVE ABOUT THIS PASSAGE IS: **WHO IS THE SHEPHERD, AND WHO ARE THE SHEEP IN JOHN 10:1-6?** (Jesus is the Shepard, Israel are the sheep. They are in the "fold" listening for the voice of the true Shepard. The Pharisees are the "thieves" who steal and kill. The sheep can go in and out of the fold at the call of the Shepherd's voice. 10:1-6 is not representative of Christians and heaven – but rather of the situation extant at the time of the writing. The Roman appointed "Leaders" of the Jews, have just cast out the man who was born blind and who has now received his sight by Jesus. (9:34))

"Comparing people to a shepherd and his sheep was common in the Middle East. Kings, priests, and prophets are routinely called themselves shepherds and their subjects were thought of as sheep.

Many of the great men of the OT were shepherds .e.g. **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and David.**" bkc.

ISRAEL IS FREQUENTLY REFERRED TO AS the "SHEEP of HIS PASTURE" or "the FLOCK of the Lord" (Ps. 100:3)

IN ITS GENERIC SENSE, "SHEEP" MAY REFER TO ANY PEOPLE WHO ARE FAVORED OF GOD. THE CONTEXT WILL DETERMINE THE IDENTIFICATION.

IN THE NT, THE NATIONS ON THE RIGHT HAND OF JESUS ARE CALLED SHEEP.

Mat 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

Mat 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

There is no better picture of the dealings of a shepherd and his sheen than that of Psalm 23.

Read **Ps .23**

"The LORD is my shepherd"

Psa 23:1 A Psalm of David. - The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psa 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

Psa 23:3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psa 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psa 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Psa 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

David spoke of **God as the Good Shepherd.**

David had himself spent many years as a **shepherd** and could appreciate what it took to be a good shepherd. **And though he himself had been a shepherd and was even yet a shepherd of a nation, God was HIS Shepherd.**

There is but one GOOD SHEPHERD.(Psalm 23)

**He gives us rest and peace

**He takes us to quiet places of refreshment

**He renews us when we are spent by the frantic pace of life

**He leads us in the PATHS THAT LEAD TO THE ABUNDANT LIFE

**And he continually leads through the foreboding shadows that seem to hinder, yet only conceal

**He it is that is our strength and our comfort in times of conflict as well as in times of repose

**He protects us from the fiery darts of the enemy

**And he provides abundantly for our every need.

He is ever diligent, on the watch for danger...and as **Ps .121:4** tells us ... **Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.**

Of Him it is said

"He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." Isaiah 40:11

THERE IS NO AMBIGUITY IN THE 23 PSALM.

As David spoke, all were aware that it was **God** that he referred to.

The Jews in the days that Jesus walked this earth were familiar also with the analogy and the implications of the 23 Psalm.

THE SHEPHERD OF THOSE WHO FOLLOW GOD - IS GOD HIMSELF.

And in **John 10 : 11**, **JESUS WILL DECLARE THAT HE IS ... "THE GOOD SHEPHERD"**

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

BUT BEFORE HE MAKES THIS REVELATION - HE TELLS US HOW TO IDENTIFY A TRUE SHEPHERD FROM A FALSE SHEPHERD.

Read - **JN.10: 1 -9**

I. THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE TWO TYPES OF SHEPHERDS

- Enters by the door. V. **2**
- He is known by the keeper of the fold (the Holy Spirit.) v. **3**
- **Calls His sheep by name. v. 3**
- He knows them, **THEY KNOW HIS VOICE.** v. **3 & 4**
- He leads the sheep (out of the "fold" of Israel) to pasture (to salvation, liberty, and food.) v. **4**
- He is the door of the sheep. v. **7**

CONTRASTED WITH FALSE SHEPHERDS"

- ❖ **Must enter the fold through surreptitious means. v. 1**

- ❖ They are thieves and robbers. v. **1**
- ❖ Cannot lead the sheep, his voice they will not heed.v. **5 & 8.**
- ❖ Must resort to tricks and gimmicks.(if the sheep listened to the voice of the false shepherds often enough, they might be deceived.)

WE RECOGNIZE MEN BY THEIR VOICES. Have you ever received a **phone call** from someone you have not seen for many years? Did the voice sound familiar? Have you turned on the radio to hear a preacher whom you have never seen, but whose voice you recognize?

When people want our attention, they call us by name. CHRIST DID LIKEWISE.

(Larry P. and I were eating in Rome the other day when I saw a familiar face nearby. I had to rack my brain to place the person – their height, relative weight, hair-color etc. were all racing through my memory bank – were they an old workplace acquaintance, business associate, neighbor, school chum, church member??? finally, I thought I remembered their first name. **When they came by the table and spoke to us, the voice of the individual confirmed to my mind that the name was correct!**)

John 20:16 Do you remember when **Jesus** approached **Mary Magdalene** outside the **empty tomb**, He first said to her "**Woman**, why weepest thou?"

However, when He called her by name, that did it!

Jesus saith unto her, "**MARY**.She turned herself and saith unto Him...**MASTER**."

- The Good Shepherd first called our name for **SALVATION**.
- We heard and responded.
- Now the Good Shepherd calls us to **SERVICE**.
- Again we must HEAR and HEED.
- **Soon He will call us to be with Him, He will come with a SHOUT - to call us out, and we SHALL AGAIN RESPOND TO THE VOICE OF OUR SHEPHERD.**

10:4-6

THE FORMATION OF A FLOCK. It is done by a **CALL**.

Only those **SHEEP who hear** their shepherd call them in His own way will respond.

PEOPLE come to God in the same way - because God calls them!

10:27 "**My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me.**"

SEE ALSO:

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are **the called** according to *his* purpose.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also **called**: and whom he **called**, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

"YOU MAY BE A NUMBER COMPUTERS CAN TRACE;
BUT CHRIST KNOWS YOUR HEART'S NEED, YOUR NAME, AND YOUR FACE!"

THE PROPER RESPONSE WHEN JESUS CALLS.

I ST FOLLOW :

Philip in **J n . 1 : 4 3**

J n . 8 : 1 2 Christ said, "I am the light of the world. he that **FOLLOWETH ME** shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

J n . 12:26 "If any man serve me, LET HIM **FOLLOW ME.**"

TWICE IN **J N . 2 1 : 1 9 - 2 2** CHRIST SPEAKS TO PETER AND COMMANDS HIM 'FOLLOW THOU ME."

V . 4 "THE SHEEP FOLLOW HIM; FOR THEY KNOW HIS VOICE"

WE FOLLOW WHEN WE HEAR THE SHEPHERDS VOICE AND OBEY HIS COMMANDS!

HE WATCHES OVER HIS OWN BOTH DAY AND NIGHT - NEVER SLUMBERING, NEVER SLEEPING - FOR, HE IS THE **DOOR OF THE SHEEP.**

John 10 : 7

Jesus is not a door, but **THE DOOR.**

"A MAN CAN GO TO HELL IN HIS OWN WAY, but he must go to heaven in GOD'S WAY, or NOT AT ALL!

CHRIST IS THE DOOR through which A MAN MUST ENTER if he is to have eternal life!"

IN THE OPENING VERSES (1-5) CHRIST HAD SPOKEN UNTO THEM IN A PARABLE WHICH THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND **10:6**

NOW HE IS GOING TO GET DOWN TO THE BARE FACTS THAT THEY NEEDED TO KNOW.

IN **JN. 9:34**, THEY HAD CAST OUT THE MAN WHO HAD BEEN BORN BLIND AND WHOM JESUS SUBSEQUENTLY HEALED. THEY CAST HIM OUT OF THE "FOLD" OF **ISRAEL - BUT JESUS, THE DOOR, RECEIVED HIM INTO HIS "FLOCK.**

"HE CAME INTO THE SHEEP-FOLD OF ISRAEL TO TAKE OUT THOSE WHO WERE TO BE HIS FLOCK. HE DID THIS WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE "PORTER", THE HOLY SPIRIT. **JN. 9:35-38**

"MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE...."**10:27** AND THEY FOLLOW ME.

10:8"...SHEEP DID NOT HEAR THEM."

Has reference "to all those leaders of the nation who cared not for the spiritual good of the people, but only for themselves." bkc.

Contrast this attitude with that of the True Shepherd in:**10:9**

He is the door. Nobody comes in or out without His permission. No harm may befall us while our Shepherd has us safe in His fold.

SAVED = "KEPT SAFE." **10:9**

Joh 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be **saved**, and **shall go in and out, and find pasture**.

3 PROMISES - **SALVATION, LIBERTY, AND NOURISHMENT**.

THE PHARISEES OF **CH. 9** WHO CLAIMED THAT THEY COULD SEE WERE ACTUALLY BLIND.THEY LED OTHERS, BUT THEY LED THEM TO THEIR DEATH!

MATT. 23:16-17 "WOE UNTO YOU, YE BLIND GUIDES....YE FOOLS AND BLIND."

Romans 2:19-22 "AND (THOU) ART CONFIDENT THAT THOU THYSELF ART A GUIDE TO THE BLIND."...YET, YOU ARE DOUBLY GUILTY OF ALL THE OFFENCES THAT YOU CONDEMN IN OTHERS.

THIS IS OBVIOUS WHEN WE LOOK AT V. 10 TO SEE...

II. THE INTENTION OF THE TWO TYPES OF SHEPHERDS

10:10

INTENTION OF THE FALSE SHEPHERDS: "The thief cometh not but to **STEAL and KILL and DESTROY**."
(NOT **SALVATION, LIBERTY, AND NOURISHMENT**)

INTENTION OF THE TRUE SHEPHERD:

"I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY.

WHEN I GOT SAVED - I EXPERIENCED LIFE IN A NEW DIMENSION.FOR THE FIRST TIME I COULD APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATION.IT WAS LIKE MY LIFE WENT FROM BEING BLACK AND WHITE - TO BEING IN TECHNICOLOR!

FOR THE FIRST TIME I KNEW WHAT IT WAS TO HAVE LIFE - AND TO HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY.

MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD "NEAR DEATH" EXPERIENCES SUDDENLY REALIZE HOW PRECIOUS AND FLEETING THIS LIFE ACTUALLY IS.

WHEN I GOT SAVED AND REALIZED **THAT I HAD BEEN DEAD** IN MY TRESPASSES AND SIN ALL OF LIFE TOOK ON THE TRUE CHARACTER THAT GOD HAD INTENDED IT TO HAVE!

THE ABUNDANT LIFE.

Wade Robinson the hymn writer expresses it in this way:

HEAVEN ABOVE IS SOFTER BLUE, EARTH AROUND IS SWEETER GREEN;
SOMETHING LIVES IN EVERY HUE, CHRISTLESS EYES HAVE NEVER SEEN!

BIRDS WITH GLADDER SONGS O'ERFLOW, FLOWERS WITH DEEPER BEAUTIES SHINE,
SINCE I KNOW AS NOW I KNOW, I AM HIS AND HE IS MINE."

Every aspect of life changes when we hear and heed the call of the Good Shepherd. We never really experience life until we come to the creator of life!

Commercials promise us that if we will buy their product, we can REALLY LIVE. As though some small particle of the CREATION could ever fill a void that may only be filled by the CREATOR!

THE ONLY PERSON WHO TRULY LIVES IS THE PERSON WHO KNOWS CHRIST!

WHY DON'T MORE BELIEVERS ENJOY THE ABUNDANT LIFE? BECAUSE TOO FEW ARE WILLING TO ALLOW CHRIST TO PUSH ASIDE THE OLD HABITS OF OUR LIFE AND CLAIM HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE **AS OUR LORD AND KING** - OR AS HERE IN JN. 10, **OUR SHEPHERD**.

"A science teacher once brought a branch into his lecture room .He explained that last summer he had broken the bough when the tree was in full leaf. He had been careful not to sever it completely from the trunk, so that the sap could still flow in it. The winter season came, and most of the old foliage fell off the tree.Spring followed, and with it the usual rising of the sap.But on this one particular bough, many old leaves remained.And even now they were still firmly attached, though the branch had been fully severed for some time.Sufficient nourishment had reached it to keep it alive and to produce some fruit, **BUT NOT ENOUGH TO THROW OFF ALL THE DEAD REMNANTS OF THE PREVIOUS SEASON!**" db may 23, 1980.

Unfortunately, this is the case with many Christians. They have new life in Christ, yet through disobedience they allow the deceitfulness of sin to choke out the riches of Christ's love and life. They may bear some small amount of fruit, but they never fully cast off the old life-style, choosing rather to permit it to stop them from receiving all that Christ has for them.

I SHALL KNOW HIM -Fanny Crosby

Most of us have appreciated many of the over 8,000 hymns that were written by the blind author Fanny Crosby. Near the end of the nineteenth century, Fanny was visiting the Lake Chautauqua Institute, in Western New York State. In those days this was a place for Christian fellowship, great preaching, and singing of wonderful hymns. It was here that she met John R. Sweeny. After a busy day at the camp meeting, both were taking a rest on the front porch of the grand hotel when John asked an interesting question of Fanny. "Fanny," he asked, "do you think we'll recognize our friends in heaven?" Initially her response was positive. She then added, "John, that's not what you really want to know. **You wonder how an old lady who has been blind all her life could even recognize one person, let alone her Lord and Savior. Well I've given it a lot of thought and I don't think I'll have a problem. But if I do, when I get to heaven, I'm going to look around and when I see the one who I think is my Savior, I'm going to walk up to Him and say, 'May I see your hands?' When I see the nail prints in the hands of my Savior, then I'll know I've found my Jesus.**" "Oh Fanny," John said, "that would make a great song." "No thank you," she replied. "I'm tired, I'm going to bed". Well the next morning, bright and early, Fanny met John for breakfast and before they went their separate ways, she dictated the words of this great hymn. It has always been one of my favorite hymns because it is about heaven and the hope of each Christian should be to see our Lord, face to face. What a wonderful day that will be!

**(1) When my life work is ended, and I cross the swelling tide,
When the bright and glorious morning I shall see
I shall know my Redeemer when I reach the other side,
And His smile will be the first to welcome me.**

Chorus:

**I shall know Him, I shall know Him
And redeemed by His side, I shall stand.
I shall know Him, I shall know Him,
By the print of the nails in His hand.**

**(2) Oh, the soul thrilling rapture when I view His blessed face
And the luster of His kindly beaming eye;
How my full heart will praise Him for the mercy, love, and grace
That prepared for me a mansion in the sky.**

Chorus"

**I shall know Him, I shall know Him
And redeemed by His side, I shall stand.
I shall know Him, I shall know Him,
By the print of the nails in His hand.**

**(3) Oh, the dear ones in glory, how they beckon me to come,
And our parting at the river I recall;
To the sweet vales of Eden they will sing my welcome home,
But I long to meet my Saviour first of all.**

Chorus:

**I shall know Him, I shall know Him
And redeemed by His side, I shall stand.
I shall know Him, I shall know Him,
By the print of the nails in His hand.**

**(4) Thro' the gates of the city in a robe of spotless white,
He will lead me where no tears will ever fall;
In the glad song of ages I shall mingle with delight,
But I long to meet my Saviour first of all.**

Chorus:

**I shall know Him, I shall know Him
And redeemed by His side, I shall stand.
I shall know Him, I shall know Him,
By the print of the nails in His hand.**