

John 10 - Hearing His Voice

John 10 is a continuation of John 9

The conversation about the blind man between Jesus and the Pharisees continues in John 10:21

Jesus is contrasting HIS relationship to the blind man (and the sheep in general) vs the Pharisees and religious leaders (who really did not care about him -- see vs 13)

The sheep/shepherd relationship is centered around hearing His Voice

Joh 10:1-5 ESV "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the **sheepfold by the door** but climbs in by another way, that man ***is a thief and a robber***. **2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd** of the sheep. **3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.** **4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.** **5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."**

The Sheep hear His Voice (Jesus speaks to us - **Are we listening?**)

He calls us by name and leads us OUT - (He knows us and calls us out - **Are we responding?**)

He goes before us - (**Are we following?**)

HE KNOWS US AND CALLS US OUT - WE MUST RESPOND - HE CALLS us by name and leads us OUT

- Isa 43:1 ESV ..O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; **I have called you by name**, you are mine.
- Acts 9:4 ESV ...he heard a voice saying to him, "**Saul, Saul**, why are you persecuting me?"
- Joh 1:41-42 ESV ...Jesus looked at him and said, "**You are Simon the son of John**."

HE GOES BEFORE US - WE MUST BE WILLING TO FOLLOW

And the sheep follow Him -- For *THEY KNOW HIS VOICE* (examples) --

A stranger they WILL NOT follow -- *for they DO NOT know his voice*

- To the disciples "Lay down your nets and follow me"
- To Matthew the tax collector "follow me"
- To Peter "put down the net on the other side"
- To Zaccheus "I am coming to your house"
- To Paul "go into the city and wait -- it will be told to you what you must do"
- To Abraham - "leave your country and go to a place I will show you"
- To Abraham - "circumcise all the males"
- To Abraham - "sacrifice your son"

THESE DID NOT FOLLOW

- To the rich young ruler "sell everything you have and come follow me"
- To these Pharisees - "If you don't believe me at least believe the works you see"

The contrast of destruction verses life abundantly

6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep**. **8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers**, but the sheep did not listen to them. **9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.** 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**

He is the door

You must enter by Him - and if you do

1. You will be **saved**
2. You will **go in and out** finding **pasture**
3. I am come that they may **have life -- and have it abundantly**

Abundantly - Think of the blind man in chapter 9 (so blessed by Jesus - physically his eyes were open, spiritually his eyes were open, Jesus gave him attention)

This abundant life is only found in following the shepherd

- Psa 23:1-6 ESV A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; **I shall not want.** 2 He makes me lie down in **green pastures.** He leads me beside **still waters.** 3 He **restores my soul.** He leads me in **paths of righteousness** for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil,** for **you are with me;** your rod and your staff, **they comfort me.** 5 You prepare a table before me in the **presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil;** my **cup overflows.** 6 Surely **goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,** and I shall **dwelt in the house of the LORD forever.**

Contrast of the good shepherd *laying down his life* and the thieves and robbers *care nothing for the sheep*

- 11 ***I am the good shepherd.*** The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 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. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and **cares nothing for the sheep.**

The Good Shepherd knows his own, they will listen to his voice

14 ***I am the good shepherd.*** I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I **lay down my life for the sheep.** 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and **they will listen to my voice.** So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

- I know my own and they know my, I lay my life down, they listen to my voice

You do not believe me because you are not among my sheep

.....24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, **26 but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.**

- **You do not believe me because you are not among my sheep** (they do not "hear" Him)

My Sheep Hear My Voice, I know them, they follow me

27 My sheep **hear my voice,** and I **know them,** and **they follow me.** 28 I **give them eternal life,** and **they will never perish,** and **no one will snatch them out of my hand.** 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

- They hear my **voice,** I **know** them, they **follow** me
- I give them **eternal life,** they will **never perish,** **no one will snatch them** out of my hand

There are many ways He speaks to us

By the word of God

Joh 14:21 ESV **Whoever has my commandments and keeps them**, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and **I will love him and manifest myself to him.**"

Joh 16:13 ESV When the Spirit of truth comes, **he will guide you into all the truth**, for he will not speak on his own authority, but **whatever he hears he will speak**, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

Joh 14:26 ESV But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **he will teach you all things** and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

By the Holy Spirit

Act 13:1-2 ESV **the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."**

Act 20:23 ESV ... **the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.**

Act 8:29 ESV **And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot."**

Visions

Act 9:10 ESV Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. **The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias."** And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

Act 10:10-13 ESV [Peter]...**fell into a trance ... And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."**

Act 16:9-10 ESV And **a vision appeared to Paul in the night**: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, **"Come over to Macedonia and help us."** 10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, **concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.**

An Angel

Act 10:22 ESV Cornelius.....**was directed by a holy angel to send for you** to come to his house

Act 12:7 ESV And behold, **an angel of the Lord stood next to him**, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, **"Get up quickly."** And the chains fell off his hands.

An appearance of Jesus

Act 23:11 ESV **The following night the Lord stood by him and said**, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."

My Sheep Hear My Voice, I know them, they follow me

It is interesting that many of these times when the LORD speaks it is related to HIS work in the earth....

I wonder if our hearing from him would become more acute when we are FOLLOWING

Follow me and I will make you fishers of men - WHERE IS JESUS LEADING TODAY - I will be with you ALWAYS to the end of the age and it has to do with the Great Commission

