# Shepherds, Strangers, and Sheep

**Robert Harkrider** · John 10:1–21 · Series: **The New Testament Church**

## INTRODUCTION

- Bible writers would draw upon this common occupation, this common sight that people could observe around them and use this scene to illustrate important spiritual truths.
- A sheepfold was an enclosure that a shepherd would construct when he was out in the field keeping his flocks.
- Each shepherd would come in and he would call his own sheep, and his sheep and only his sheep would hear his voice, and they would come walking out behind him.

## 1 A Reality to Celebrate: Jesus Is Our Good Shepherd

**John 10:11; John 10:14–16; John 10:17–18**

- I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.
- As our good shepherd, Jesus knows his sheep.
- In addition to knowing his sheep, we also see that he leads and guides his sheep.
- He's not trying to say that Jesus has many different flocks. He's trying to say just the opposite, that he's building one flock.
- Men did not take the life of Jesus. He laid it down.
- The death means nothing without the resurrection.

## 2 A Danger That We Need to Fear

**John 10:1; John 10:12–13; John 9:22**

- Throughout this context, Jesus would speak repeatedly about the enemies that the sheep confronted.
- All of these enemies well represented the religious establishment of Jesus' day.
- Just as there were hirelings and strangers and thieves in that day, we face those same dangers today.
- They're an enemy to God's flock because the message they're preaching is not the message of the shepherd.
- Sometimes false doctrine can be so alluring and is so popular because it's telling men what they want to hear.

## 3 A Challenge to Act Like Sheep

**John 10:14; John 10:2–5**

- It gives us a challenge as God's sheep to act like sheep.
- Verse 14 says, I am the good shepherd, I know my own, and my own know me.
- It is through a study of the scriptures that we come to know Jesus.
- When you know the shepherd's voice, when the stranger comes along with error, it just won't sound right.

- We need to know the shepherd, and number two, we need to follow him.
- Jesus is describing a people who have put their life completely into the shepherd's hand and who rely totally on his wisdom.

THE CHALLENGE

**Are you in his fold this morning? Are you one of his sheep?**

MY NOTES