

Jesus: The Good Shepherd

John 10:1-21

Introduction: Today we begin our study of *John 10:1-22* with the prophet Ezekiel's insight into the contrast between the false shepherds of Israel (*Eze 34:2-10*) and the promised true shepherd, Israel's long awaited Messiah— Jesus Christ. Jesus brings this contrast and conflict to real life as He responds to allegations and challenges of Israel's false shepherds—the religious leaders known as the Pharisees.

Jesus is the True Shepherd (vs. 1-5)

- For Jesus to be the actual promised Messiah meant He had to be of the lineage of King David.
- The True Shepherd of Israel would be the one who came by way of fulfilled prophecy.
- The credentials of the True Shepherd of Israel had to include that He entered through the proper door of the Old Testament Mosaic law.
- No matter how big the crowd may be at a Billy Graham or a Greg Laurie Crusade---every believer who has come to Jesus for salvation comes as an individual that Jesus knows by name.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd (vs. 11)

- The price of freedom from sin was expensive. It cost God the life of His Son. There is a cost for the Christian also. Belief and repentance are battles for the soul because human nature resists the goodness of God and the truth of His Word.
- But Jesus is the **GOOD SHEPHERD**. He laid down His life for you; He calls you out of this world and He promises to go before you and walk with you every step of the way. *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."* - *Hebrews 13:5*

Jesus is the Great Shepherd (vs. 16)

- The "fold" Jesus was referring to was the nation Israel. But Jesus was already looking beyond the unbelieving fold of His Jewish countrymen to the believers who would respond to His voice from all nations.

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

- Galatians 3:28

"There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.- Ephesians 4:4-6