

“The Abundant Life” – Part 1

Mount of Olives | November 6, 2022 | John 10:7-10

Pastor John Steward

Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, You have been so good to us that it is hard to believe that sometimes we doubt You and our security. You are ever faithful, and we can be assured that You desire what is best for our lives. Help us to trust You more, relying every day on Your guidance. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 10:7-10

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Message Notes

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

2 Corinthians 5:17

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Study Questions - Read John 10:1-21

1. (ICEBREAKER – getting started) Think about someone who has been a mentor, coach, guide, or helper for you in your life. What did that person do or say that helped you or provided guidance when you needed it?

2. (OBSERVATION – What does the text say?) As you read John 10:1-21, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?

3. (INTERPRETATION – What did it mean to them?) In this passage, Jesus makes parallel statements. He says, “I am the gate” (verse 7) and “I am the good shepherd” (verse 11). In Jesus' day, animals were often kept in a courtyard that was enclosed by a wall and was attached to a building. The sheep were led into the courtyard through a gate, which kept them secure and safe. Based on this explanation, what do you think Jesus meant by saying He is the “gate”? What do you think He meant by saying that He is the “good shepherd”?

4. (I) What sort of contrast does Jesus make between himself as “the gate” and the thieves and robbers in verses 7-10?

5. (I) How does Jesus' striking statement in verse 10 shed light on His purpose as the gate?

6. (I) In verses 11 and 14, Jesus changes the picture a bit as He goes on to describe Himself as “the good shepherd”. In the Old Testament there are a lot of rich images of good shepherds. Can you think of any of these ‘good shepherd’ references? (*You may want to look at Exodus 3:1-6; 1 Samuel 16:11-13; and Psalm 78:70-72.*) What is it that made these Old Testament Shepherds “good”? What can you learn from their examples?

7. (I) Jesus contrasts the good shepherd and the hired hand in verses 11-13. What are the main differences? What does this tell you about whom Jesus is? (*To dig deeper, you may want to look at Ezekiel 34.*)

8. (I) Although it may sound strange to us, there is a relationship that exists between a shepherd and the sheep. The sheep grow familiar with the shepherd's voice, which is why Jesus says, "I know my sheep and the sheep know Me" (10:14), and also, "the sheep listen to his voice" (10:3). What do you think it looks like for us, as Jesus' sheep, to have that sort of relationship with Him, our good shepherd? How do we grow familiar with His voice?

9. (I) In both verses 11 and 17, Jesus mentions the idea of the good shepherd as one who "lays down his life for the sheep". What do you think Jesus meant by this? What does this mean to you? Should the fact that the "Good Shepherd" has laid down his for you, affect the way in which you live your life today? If so, in what ways does it affect or influence you?

10. (APPLICATION – What does this mean to you today?) To conclude your study, read Psalm 23 aloud. This is a powerful picture of the Lord as our shepherd. Consider one specific area of your life where you need Jesus to be