

## BIBLE STUDY on JOHN (NIV) Part 15

### JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD



John 10 v 1 - 16; 27 - 33

#### *The Shepherd and His Flock*

1 "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. 3 The watchman opens the gate for him and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech but they did not understand what He was telling them.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me were thieves and robbers but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate;

whoever enters through Me, will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me - 15 just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father - and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to My voice and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

#### *The Unbelief of the Jews*

27 "My sheep listen to My voice; I know them and they follow Me. 28 I give them eternal life and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

31 Again the Jews picked up stones to

stone Him 32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone Me?"

33 "We are not stoning You for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy because You, a mere man, claim to be God."

### Some Lessons from This Story

1. *Jesus is the only door to salvation.* Only by hearing His voice and following Him can we be His very own sheep. He calls you by your name, He leads you, He gives you pasture, He gives His life for you. **"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity (sin) of us all."** (Isaiah 53 v 6) Have you turned back from your own way to go His way?
2. *Jesus is the only true Shepherd.* **"For He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care ..."** (Psalm 95a) **"Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture."** (Psalm 100 v 3)
3. *If we are His sheep, He knows us and we know Him.* **"Yet You know me, O Lord; You see me and test my thoughts about You ..."** (Jeremiah 12 v 3a) *Do you know Jesus as your Shepherd?* If you do, you will follow Him and no one else. *Does the Shepherd know you?* When "the Chief Shepherd shall appear," many will say to Him, **"Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?"** Jesus says, **"Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"** (Matthew 7 v 22 + 23) We cannot belong to the Shepherd and go our own way at the same time. Without holiness no man shall see the Lord. (Hebrews 12 v 14).
4. *When we belong to Jesus, we are safe for eternity.* No one can pluck us out of His hand. This promise is given only to those who are following that "great Shepherd of the sheep," the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. *Jesus claimed to be God.* When Jesus claimed to be the good Shepherd and when He said that He and His Father were one, the Jews know that He was making Himself equal with God. If they had been following God, they would have recognised Jesus as their Shepherd. Isaiah prophesied, **"See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power .... He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those that have young."** (Isaiah 40 v 10 + 11)