

**The Gospel of John: That You May Believe
The Door and the Shepherd Who Lays Down His Life
John 10:1-42 (page 748)**

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Frank Mascaro

Jesus is:

The D o o r (John 10:1-10; 14:6; Acts 4:12;
Jer 23:1-4; 25:34-38; Eze 34)

The G o o d S h e p h e r d (John 10:11-21)

His c h a r a c t e r is proven by:

- His perfect self-s a c r i f i c e (vs 11-13, 15; Rom 5:6-8)
- His perfect k n o w l e d g e
(vs 14-16; 1:42; 20:16; Eph 2:11-22; 3:6)
- His perfect p o w e r (vs 17-18; 14:23-24; Acts 4:27-28)

The S o n of G o d (John 10:22-42; 6:38-40;
Eph 2:8-9; Rom 8:31-39; Psalm 82)

Four characteristics Christ's followers should reflect:

- I am s e n s i t i v e to Christ's v o i c e (v 27a)
- I am d e s i r o u s to f o l l o w Christ's commands (v 27b)
- I am c o n f i d e n t of my d e s t i n y (v 28)
- I am s e c u r e in God's h a n d s (v 29)

Growth Group
Sermon Study Helps
John 10:1-42 (Week Twenty-one)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

Intro:

The OT regularly presents God as the Shepherd of His people. The NT employs the same image for Jesus. There is no better loved picture of Jesus than that of Him as the Good Shepherd. The life of the shepherd in biblical times was very hard. In that area, no flock ever grazes without a shepherd and the shepherd is never off duty. There is little grass and the sheep are bound to wander far off and with out protecting walls, the sheep must always be watched. The shepherd's task was continuous and dangerous, as he had to guard the flock against wild animals, as well as, thieves and robbers, who were always ready to steal the sheep. It is against this backdrop, that of a shepherd caring for, guarding and defending his sheep, that help bring the words of Jesus, speaking of Himself, as the ultimate Shepherd, to life.

Discussion Questions

Was there anything said on Sunday that got your attention, a particular point, or that you have a question about?

What new view of God did you gain from Sunday's message?
What new insight about you came to mind?

How does this story of the Good Shepherd tie into and give light to the story of the man healed from blindness in chapter 9?
Or is there any connection? Discuss.

John employs a number of metaphors for Jesus in his gospel (1:1; 1:4, 8:12; 1:29; 3:29; 6:35, 48; 10:7,11). How do these metaphors help us to understand *who* Jesus is and *what* He has come to do? Discuss.

How are we like sheep? What are the qualities of sheep according to Jesus (v 3,4,5,9,12,14) and what do they imply about us? Is there a better animal to characterize us as people?

How can you tell the difference between the Good Shepherd's voice and the voices of imposters? Give examples. How can you grow better able to distinguish between the two?

What does Jesus mean by saying that whoever enters by Him will "come in and go out and find pasture"? What is "abundant life" or "life to the fullest" in this passage?

Jesus says about a small bit of a Psalm (82) "*the scripture cannot be broken*" (v 35) - what does this imply about His view of scripture? How does that affect your view of scripture? Discuss.

Taking it to the streets....

Are you following the Shepherd as closely as one of His sheep would? (v 4, 27) How could you improve in this area? What do you need to adjust in your priorities and choices?

What is *one truth* from 10:1-42 you would like to concentrate on this week? What implications does this truth have for your life if you begin to change to implement it?