

## 100321 Growth Group Study

### The Sheep of His Pasture

John 10:22-24



#### Background:

In John 10, Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd.” Throughout the chapter, he also says repeatedly that his sheep hear his voice in order to know him and follow him (v. 27). But, is it really possible to hear Jesus’ voice today? For the first group of disciples, it was obviously possible. They literally heard his voice, and they literally followed Him down the road. But, is it possible for us today? Come this Sunday as we finish the Good Shepherd discourse by focusing on hearing Jesus’ voice.

#### Sermon Text (ESV):

##### John 10:22-42 (focus on 25-30)

*22 At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” 25 Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”*

31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" 33 The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." 34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'? 35 If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— 36 do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? 37 If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; 38 but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." 39 Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

40 He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. 41 And many came to him. And they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." 42 And many believed in him there.

### Discussion Questions:

- Preparation
  - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
  - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
  - Which of the 3 privileges of following Jesus mentioned in these verses has meant the most to you? Which one(s) do you want to appreciate more?
    - Eternal life (v.28): His sheep have eternal life and will never perish
    - Assurance (v.28-29): His sheep have ultimate safety & security, not even death can snatch us away
    - Hearing his voice (v.27): His disciples literally heard and followed him, but we can still hear his voice today
  - Jesus is present with us today so we have probably heard his voice but may not have realized it or ignored it. Read Psalm 81:8-14 together.
    - What are the benefits of listening to God? What are the consequences of *not* listening to God?

- Shawn discussed **7 ways that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, speaks to us today.** Which one(s) have you relied on the most? Why? Which one(s) would you like to try out/appreciate more?
  1. Scripture: The Word of God is living & active today, and is our most reliable source
  2. Preached Word: Addresses a particular people, time, place, and purpose
  3. Trusted friends/counselors: As we open our hearts to other believers, they are led to respond with Spirit's prompting
  4. Circumstances: Includes obstacles or open doors, and may materialize as peace or restlessness
  5. Books: e.g., from Christian authors like C.S. Lewis
  6. Dreams: used often during Bible times (e.g., Joseph) and still today (e.g., Muslim world)
  7. Holy Spirit: speaks through his Spirit within us & requires discernment from other "voices" within such as worldly influences
- Shawn discussed 4 ways that we can discern the voice of Jesus in our busy world. Which one(s) stand out most to you? Why?
  1. Scripture: His voice (& any new guidance) will always align with Scripture, so we must saturate our mind & heart with it in order to tell truth from counterfeit
  2. Character of Jesus: the gospels best reveal Jesus's character
  3. Actions of Jesus: does His voice heighten my love for God & neighbor?
  4. Intimacy with Jesus: does His voice draw me to Him/restore me, or condemn me/send away?
- Finally, do you have a special listening place where you can be intentional about listening to his voice? If so, where? If not, where could it be?