

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

March 24, 2021

Pastor Tom finished telling us the story of St. Patrick that he heard on Adventure in Odyssey Radio Theatre on 97.3.

John 10: 1 - 10

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. 4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. 5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. 6 This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. 7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. 10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Pastor Tom read all 10 verses before breaking it down.

Verse 1

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

*This is the 2nd of the great 'I AMs' in the book of John. I am the door. Jesus describes this as a parable, a story that tells a story. Sometimes the parable lets you determine the outcome but this one is explained clearly by Jesus in verses 7 & 9. He states the meaning: I am the Door.

*We need to visualize the imagery of the sheepfold. It is a paddock type of fenced in area for livestock, sheep in this case. It is a safe place, a sanctuary, perhaps a sacred, holy place. Like the sanctuary of a church,

there are certain behaviors that should or shouldn't be done within that place.

*And in the sheepfold (the sacred place) there is a door. In this parable only one door. Anyone who tries to get in by any other means are up to no good, thieves!

*And we have the sheep, vulnerable and without much sense, who need to depend on the shepherd and the safety of the sheepfold. Because they are defenseless critters, they would be killed by predators if not kept safe.

Pastor brought up an interesting point: In pre-covid times we were very concerned about the safety of our congregation because of shooting attacks on churches and we put in surveillance cameras to keep us safe. During the peak of covid this winter, we forgot about intruders because there was no one in the church building. But recently, as things have opened up somewhat, we have seen more shootings taking place around the country.

???There is a spirit of fear in many people these days. Teen Sunday School class discussed what one thing they would take from their home if they had to leave in one minute. Something to think about.

Verse 2

But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

*Two key words in this verse: door (to be discussed tonight) and shepherd (to be discussed more next week)

*Jesus is the door and the Good Shepherd. But he places shepherds, or undershepherds, to guard the sheep. These undershepherds are the pastors and priests of local churches. And a true shepherd, Jesus says, comes through the door (Jesus himself) first. A 'Jesus Approved' shepherd (pastor) must come through Jesus first by being in the Word. He sees the Word as the authority to follow. If he does not recognize the Word as authority, then how can he be a shepherd or guard of the sheep.

Acts 20:28

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Verse 3

To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

*[the porter is the Holy Spirit?]

Verse 4

And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

Pastor Tom quoted from GOOD NEWS magazine which comes from the conservative group of the UMC about leadership:

Confused leadership creates confused organizations that create confusing plans that create more confusion and more distrust.

James 1:8

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

*So who can you trust during confusion?

Verse 5

And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

*Have you ever had a dog that knew your voice? [See Daily Bread 3/25/21 devotional!]

*Jesus says His sheep will know His voice because He earned their trust because He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

*And they will not follow a stranger's voice.

Galatians 1:8

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Galatians 3:1

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

*The same things that Paul warned the Galatian Church about can happen today and is happening in many churches.

Verse 6

This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

Verse 7

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

*As Jesus begins to explain this parable, he uses verily, verily...which means always to pay attention, listen, this is important!

*Jesus again refers himself as the door, the one and only door, there is no other way.

Verse 8

All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

*Others came but the sheep did not hear/recognize/follow their voices.

Verse 9

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

*What does the shepherd do? He finds good pastures for His sheep to nourish them.

*If we go through Him, we will be fed with God's provisions, leading to sanctification. Salvation can only come through Jesus Christ and only the Holy Spirit can feed us through sanctification.

Verse 10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

*Through this parable Jesus has talked of thieves (plural) until this verse. Here He talks about the one, singular, thief which is the devil. And the devil wants to steal and destroy our blessings and everything that is good. The devil has no compassion and wants to kill good.

*BUT Jesus says he has come that the sheep will have life and have it abundantly!

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

*People should not expect to have blessings if Jesus is not their door.

Pastor Tom promised more on this thought next week.

Goodnight everyone!
