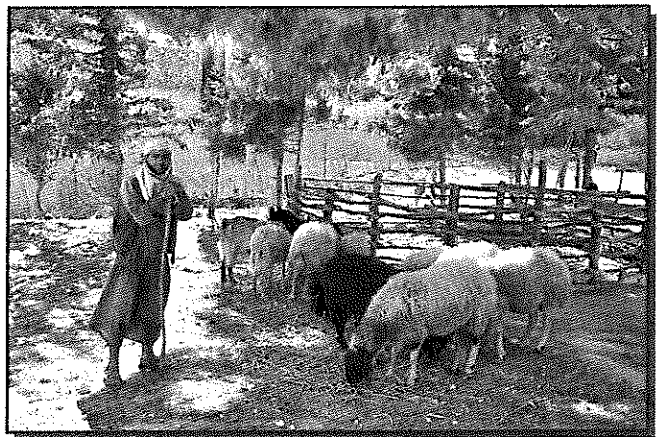


Lesson 6

I AM

THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP, THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Some have called the land of Palestine the "land of shepherds." In John 10, Jesus is in Jerusalem which was within a section of Judea called the Central Plateau. It stretches from Bethel to Hebron for a distance of about 35 miles and varies in width from 14 to 17 miles. Because this land was dry, rough and rocky, it is more pastoral than agricultural.



The life of a shepherd is hard, nomadic and solitary. He spends long stretches of time away from his family. He keeps on the move to find food and water. Wild animals such as wolves and bears are a danger for the shepherd and sheep alike. Thieves are also a constant threat.

The shepherd's tools consists of: a srip—a bag made of skin which contained food, a sling—an offensive and defensive weapon, a staff—a short wooden club studded with nails to ward off beasts and robbers, and a rod—like a shepherd's crook, used to pull back straying sheep.

Sheep are not very smart animals. If left alone, they will die. They are very dependent on the shepherd for their food, water and shelter.

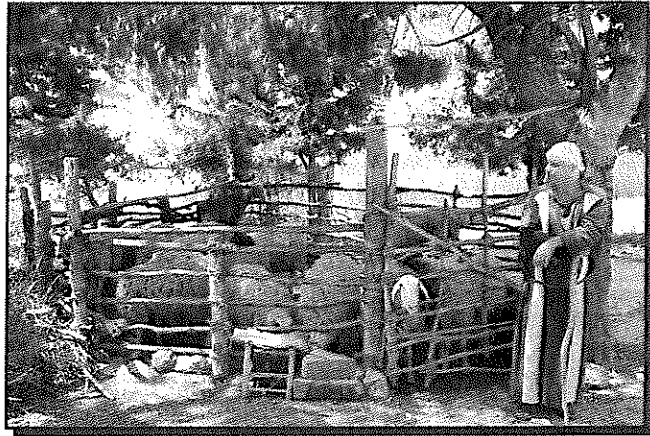
1. What is the contrast between the thief/robber and the shepherd of the sheep in John 10:1-2? _____

2. What are the qualities of the sheep mentioned by Jesus (John 10:3-5)? _____

A. According to John 10:6, the listeners of Jesus do not understand Jesus' illustration. What is Jesus' point(s)? _____

I am the Door

3. What does Jesus claim to be (John 10:7)? _____



Jesus is not talking about a door to a house. In the cold weather, the shepherd took his sheep into a village where he could find a pen for his sheep and an inn for himself. In warmer weather, he could stay out in the hills searching for pastures. At night, a wall would be made from rock and branches with one opening.

This enclosure would keep the sheep from wandering off during the night as well as keep out animals and thieves. The shepherd would lead each sheep through the opening inspecting each as it entered. When all were safely inside, the shepherd would lie down in the opening. Nothing could come in or go out except through him. He literally became “the door.”

4. What/who is the “door of the sheep” in Jesus’ figure? _____

5. What blessing is attached to entering by the door (John 10:9)? _____

I am the Good Shepherd

6. What is the contrast between the intentions of the thief and the intentions of Jesus (John 10:10)? _____

7. What is the contrast between the hireling and the “good shepherd” (John 10:11-13)? _____

When the temperature dropped, the shepherd would come into town for the night to obtain warmth for himself and the sheep. All the shepherds would put their sheep in a common pen and hire someone to watch them through the night. In the morning, the sheep would be separated. A stranger would have difficulty separating the sheep since they were not branded as cattle (sheep were raised for their wool not their meat). The sheep would separate themselves when they heard their own shepherd’s voice calling them. The shepherd knew each sheep by name.

8. Who are the "other sheep" Jesus spoke of and when do they become "one flock" (John 10:16; Eph. 2:13-22)? _____

9. What does Jesus say He had the power to do (John 10:17-18)? _____

- A. If this is true, why does Jesus pray, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will but as You will," (Matt. 26:36)? _____

10. What is the reaction of those who heard these claims of Jesus (John 10:19-21)?

11. Put this claim of Jesus, "I am the Door of the sheep. I am the good Shepherd," in your own words. _____

12. How does this truth help form your concept of Jesus as the Son of God? _____

Read Psalms 23 with Jesus in mind.

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

*2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.*

*3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.*

*4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

*5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.*

*6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.*