

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY
 “The Gospel of John”
 Pastor Jim Otte
 2019-2020

Lesson 42: John 10:1-5 “Whose Voice is in Your Head?”

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

- a. “Thief, robber, stranger...shepherd of the sheep” – Jesus uses the metaphor of shepherding to illustrate His relationship to His disciples. Based on the shepherd’s knowing His sheep and their trust in Him.

“Thief and a robber”	“(True) Shepherd of the Sheep”
“climbs in another way”	“enters by the door”
“a stranger...they will flee”	“calls sheep by name and leads them”
“they do not know the voice of strangers.”	“He goes before them, and (they) follow Him. They know His voice”

- b. “the door” – in the field, sheep were protected by a “keep” or a hedge constructed by shepherds and built with thorny branches stacked to make a temporary corral. The “door” or the “gate” was a section designed to be pulled away. The shepherd would walk in, as opposed to an enemy which would try to climb in by another way. Question: What “doors” does the enemy use today?
- c. “sheep” – by nature, an extremely anxious and skittish creature; obstinate mostly, but other times compliant (only by the voice of the shepherd, the nudge of the staff, or the nip of the dog); inclined to eat too much; too nervous to drink from running water; smelly; and totally dependent on the shepherd’s vigilance, care, and direction; think they know better than anyone; are calmed and steadied by the shepherd’s voice.
- d. “He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out.” – So personal is Jesus’ relationship with you, He calls you “by name” as He leads you in life!
 - a. How to hear Jesus’ “voice” calling and leading you...
 - i. Visualize Jesus as the “Shepherd” and you as a “sheep.”
 - ii. Picture Him calling you “by name.”
 1. What does His voice sound like?
 2. Imagine He is smiling when He says your name?

3. Visualize Him leading you out into your day.
 4. Visualize His presence, vigilance, and power through your day.
 5. Hear His voice as you go to sleep knowing He is protecting you.
- b. Meditate on the imagery of Psalm 23 describing the “good shepherd’s” relationship with His sheep.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.^[a]

³ He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness^[b]
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,^[c]
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 overflows.

⁶ Surely^[d] goodness and mercy^[e] shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell^[f] in the house of the Lord
forever.

- c. Breathe your way through the Psalm

(The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”)

a. “His voice...the voice of strangers” – Jesus contrasts the shepherd from imposters by distinguishing between the “voice” which the sheep would hear.

b. “strangers...thieves & robbers...hired hand” – share the common denominators of:

- a. little or no care for the well-being of the sheep
- b. seeking to exploit the sheep for their own good
- c. are temporary (no long-term relationship)
- d. may disguise themselves as “shepherds”
- e. are not invested in personally sacrificing self for the sheep

c. Questions:

- a. How do you tell the real shepherd from the “stranger, thieves & robber, or hired hand?”
- b. Which “voice” are you training your ears to hear (and obey)?

