

John 10:1



A sheepfold was like an open air courtyard. It was an uncovered space, enclosed by a wall with a gate and a gatekeeper. Inside the sheepfold there might be animal stables. Shepherds would keep their sheep in a sheepfold at night to protect them from predators and thieves.

(1)

Think about [Psalm 23:1-3](#). King David said -

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even 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.

- Who chose the LORD to be the shepherd of King David?
- Is the LORD the shepherd of everyone?
Consider [Psalm 49:6-14](#). *Those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches ... Man in his pomp will not remain; he is like the beasts that perish. This is the path of those who have foolish confidence; ... Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol (the place of the dead); death shall be their shepherd ...*
- Who is the shepherd of those who follow the LORD? (See Psalm 23:1-3 quoted above.)
- What does the LORD do for the souls of his sheep?
- Even though the LORD was David's shepherd, did David still walk through threatening times?
- How did David face his troubles?

(2)

Think about [John 10:1-3](#).

(Jesus said) "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. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. ..."

Jesus referred to the common scene of a sheepfold to teach his followers how to know who is their true shepherd and who is not.

- How would the Lord's sheep know who is *not* their shepherd?
 - How would they know who is their shepherd?
 - What is the duty of the gatekeeper?
 - If God the Father is the gatekeeper, how might he open the gate for the shepherd, so that the sheep would know their shepherd?
Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know ..."
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(3)

Think about [John 10:3-5](#).

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

- What is it about his sheep, that the shepherd knows?
 - What is it about their shepherd, that the sheep know?
 - How does the shepherd guide his flock?
 - How do the sheep react to strangers? Why?
 - How can believers in Jesus, know his voice?
 Consider [John 8:31-32](#). *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*
 - What is one way that Shepherd Jesus has guided his sheep?
 Consider [1Peter 2:20-25](#). *... if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ... because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ... For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*
 - What is one way that Shepherd Jesus still guides his sheep?
 Consider [Hebrews 13:20-21](#). *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*
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(4)

Think about [John 10:6](#).

This figure of speech Jesus used with them (the Jews), but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

- What do you think; why didn't these Jews understand this parable of Jesus?
[John 10:26-27](#) (Jesus said to these Jews) *"... you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."*
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