

2009#18 GOSPEL OF JOHN –THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10:1-21

In this passage today Jesus moves
To educate and assure us that
He alone is the Good Shepherd.
He warns us of the false shepherds
And their broken trust to us and God.

We need trust to survive in a democracy.
This past week Domino's Pizza took a real hit on trust.
Two employees video recorded themselves as they
Concocted a "Special Treat" pizza for a customer.
They deliberately dropped pizza toppings on the floor,
mashed them around, scraped them up, and daintily arranged them on the pie.
They stuck cheese strands up their own noses,
Then giddily sprinkled them over the sauce.
They squished and spit the condiments all over the top,
Then uploaded their video creation on the internet for all to see.
The outcry was immediate.
Domino's Pizza was instantly plunged into the highest damage control alert possible.
The two employees were fired on the spot.
But the damage was done.
One destructive Video and our trust in the food industry took a hit.
That particular Domino's outlet was closed for a complete sanitation "do-over."
If you saw that Tube video,
did you order a pizza the next day?
With all the salmonella, e-coli and toxins warning from
Tainted spinach, tomatoes, peanut butter,
We get skeptical.

Yet on Sunday we have more people in restaurants and fast food places
Than we do in Church,
Do we have more trust in the guy who fixes our pizza
Than we do in the leadership of our church?

This issue of trust was at the heart of Jesus story of the Good Shepherd.
John 10 Jesus clearly showed that
a. The Good Shepherd, the Door, is Jesus Christ.
b. The hireling shepherds, the murderers, robbers,
are the false Christ, false prophets, Scribes, Pharisees.
c. The wicked hireling
are priests and ungodly ministers of all sorts,.

So Jesus begins by highlighting the six duties
of a good spiritual leader, pastor, or shepherd.

I. MARKS AND DUTIES OF A GOOD SHEPHERD

1. **The first mark** of a good shepherd is:
is that he has a lawful entrance into the ministry

"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.

The true shepherd or pastor has been called of Christ.
By the urging of the Holy Spirit.
But by the process of ordination and laying on of hands.
To do the will of God,
To preach the word of God
To fulfill the work of God,
All for the salvation of souls,
They have progressed thru the gate,
Even at the sacrifice of his own personal motives and aims

2. **The second mark** of the Good Shepherd is to open door.

The watchman opens the gate for him, John 10:3

The Pastors job is to open the door of the church,
To any and all who would come,
So that the Holy Spirit can minister to the hearts of his flock.
The result of this is that his labor is blessed with success.

3. **The third mark of the good shepherd** is to teach and preach

The sheep listen to his voice. John 10:3

The shepherds is to speak and teach the truth
From the inspired and Holy Word of God.
Someone described a preaching:
"A mild mannered attempt, by a mild manner preacher, to get mild mannered people, to become more mild mannered."
Doesn't that sound boring.
I chuckled when I heard of a church which formed a committee to
"Examine the squeak in the pulpit".
The real preacher does not squeak, but is a voice shouting in the wilderness
"Prepare the way of the Lord."
A voice that calls the sheep in from the storm and danger,
And into the fold.

4. **The fourth mark** is to know his people

He calls his own sheep by name John 10:3

The pastor is to know his people personally,
To acquaint himself with their spiritual and physical needs.
So he can help lift them up, encourage them
And pray for their physical and spiritual healing.

5. **The fifth mark** is to lead

He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. John 10:3

A pastor is to lead the flock,
Not *lord* it over them by unfounded rules and traditions, regulations, policies, theologies,
Or degrees, that drive people away from Christ.
The Pastor's job is to lead his people out of the world,
Out of the follies, diversions, and destructions of the world
That would kill the soul rather than build up the soul.
Some people are so afraid of making a mistake
that they don't make anything else.

Any life truly lived is a risk

6. The Sixth Mark is to set the example.

⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. John 10:4

A true pastor goes ahead of his people.
 Gives them a life to imitate.
 He is not only to preach the word,
 But to live the word, in a consistent manner.
 with the truth of the Gospel;

HAVING SAID all that

Jesus moves to warn us there are false religious rulers and leaders.

II. WARNINGS OF THE FALSE TEACHERS, LEADERS

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. John 10:7-8

Jesus warns that the Pharisees had broken trust with God

They were not true shepherds
 They did not love the sheep,
 But exploited and abused them.
 The beggar was a good example of what the
 "Thieves and robbers" could do.
 When they found out the beggar had been healed on the Sabbath,
 They called him in and after an exchange of words,
 They ex-communication him in John 9
 They said:

You were steeped in sin at birth, how dare you lecture us. And they threw him out. John 9:34

They missed what that Sabbath was all about,
 They missed sharing the joy of the healing,
 Instead of securing the sheep, they were sheering the sheep.
 They were scaring and scarring the sheep.
 Jesus called them Robber and thieves.

¹"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. John 10:1

They were thieve and robbers.

What were they stealing?

hope, and optimism, the innocence and Integrity of the people.
 They even plotted to kill Jesus the good shepherd -John 11:49-52

Behind these false shepherds is the real "Thief"

Jesus is referring to Satan.

¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

Jesus clarifies for us what Satan's real motive are.

To steal all the sheep

Slaughter them

And destroy them.

¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;

Jesus tells us why he came.

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

Jesus whole point was to rescue the sheep from the fire.

To interfere with Satan's crime ring of destruction,

And stop the slave trade of god's people.

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:11

Jesus says: Don't trust the hired man,

The temps won't be loyal and faithful.

They will abandon the sheep and run away.

Because they care nothing for the sheep

The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. John 10:12-13

We all know of spiritual leaders who

Do all kinds of good works,

At places of disasters, floods, hurricanes, this is good,

Some follow rules and rituals of worship,

Into all kinds of justice ministries, this is also good.

But they don't know how to minister to the care of souls for lost sheep.

Why else would we have a Sunday School Teacher On Trial

in the national news for molesting and killing a little neighbor girl.

There are false leaders who come to destroy and kill.

And some even live in the church,

And join the church for personal gain

So they can get votes for an election,

or cheaper marriage fees,

Or sell services to new members,

or market their goods,

Not for the salvation of others.

In fact they don't know how to lead people to Christ,

Because they haven't met him themselves.

We have a work full of fakes today.

People who have taken shortcuts

Get educational degrees without the credits earned.

Find Jobs with exaggerated resume.

Get their ordination papers on line

Or just steal someone else identity

Rather than make it their own.

There are so many who are saying this is the way follow me.

Turn on the TV, the internet,

Watch the foolish attempts of false prophets

Trying to get in over the fence.
 The only thing I ever God from going over the fence on the farm,
 Was Ripped pants. Ruined jeans.
 You try to get into the fold by any other way then the door,
 And you will find sometime torn and destroyed in your life.

Jesus said: I am the gate,
 I am the door of the sheepfold.
 And he rose from the death to prove it.
 People want to change what God put in place for the salvation of our world.
 But Malachi says:

Malachi 3:6 I the Lord do not change
James 1:17 says God does not change like shifting shadows.

The same way to heaven in that Blind beggar's time,
 Is the same way to heaven in our time.
 Don't believe anyone who tries to tell you differently.

I hear on the BBC news
 Of the Atheists who are out on a new campaign.
 Spending hundreds of thousand of dollars saying:
 That God doesn't exist.
 "If God doesn't exist, stop worrying and start enjoying your life."
 There is no sin,
 There is no God.
 They are even going so far as to offer un-baptism certificates.
 Where you can annul your baptism and be unbaptized.

I want to tell you something
 Not only does God not change,
 But the price God paid for you as a sinner does not change.
It was not by the blood of goats and calves; but Jesus entered the Most Holy Place
once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. Hebrews 9:12
 The other thing that does not change
 Is that Jesus is the only mediator who can bring us to God.
For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called
may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to
set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. Hebrews 9:13

That's why the bible says to all leaders.
Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you
overseers. Be shepherds of the Church of God, which he bought with his own blood.
Acts 20:28

The blind beggar lost his connection to Judaism
 He lost his connection to the temple and the synagogue,
 But he found his connection in the savior
 He found his connection to eternal life.
 To the security of the world.

THE GOOD Shepherd does not stop with

Leading the sheep out.
He leads them in.
Jesus found the man and invited him in.

Let this word be a comfort to your heart today.
You may feel ostracized by the world
Kicked out of clubs and intimate circles
Because of your biblical view of life.
Maybe even like Miss California,
You have been ostracized because of your stand for
A biblical view of marriage,
Or a biblical view of chastity.
We don't fit in with the morals,
We don't fit in with the dishonesty,
We don't fit in with the night life.
Jesus is leading us out of the world.
Out of the old lifestyles
Out of old hurts and pain,
Into the safety of the sheepfold.

That is what the body of Christ is all about.
That is what the church is all about,
Where we can come and feel safe and secure,
protected and accepted,
welcomed and healed.
In the protection of Christ,
The Good shepherd.