

Jesus Confirms and Explains the Pharisee's Blindness (John 10:1-21)
(Alternate Title: Jesus Reveals His Nature to the Blind Pharisees)

Remember that Jesus is speaking to Pharisees here. There is no break between John 9 and 10. Jesus is continuing the conversation with the Pharisees about being blind. You may want to re-read the last few verses of chapter 9. Jesus will begin chapter 10 by telling a parable illustrating the "blindness" of the Pharisees.

I. Jesus Proves the Pharisee's Blindness with a Parable (10:1-6)

A. The Parable of the Sheepfold (1-5)

1. The True Shepherd Enters through the Door (1-2)

a. The Robber Doesn't Enter through the Door (1)

- i. All those who claim to be of God and leading people toward eternal life have to enter through the door.
- ii. Those who climb over another way are false shepherds. They are imposters who should not be in the fold, much less attempting to shepherd the sheep.
- iii. Later Jesus will tell us that he himself is the door. *"I am the way the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father accept through me."*
- iv. Jesus is calling the Pharisees false shepherds attempting to steal God's sheep away for their own purposes.

b. The Shepherd Enters through the Door (2-3a)

- i. The gatekeeper (God the Father) opens the door for the shepherd to come in
 - a. Later Jesus also tells us he is the shepherd
 - b. The Father sends the Son to be our shepherd
- ii. The shepherd alone has the right to be in the sheep fold. He alone has the right to guide and provide for the sheep.
- iii. The Shepherd is there to care and nurture the sheep as well as protect them from those who would seek to do them harm.

2. The True Shepherd is Known by the Sheep (3b-4)

a. The Sheep Hear the Shepherd's Voice

- i. God's people know the voice of their savior
- ii. God's people trust and follow the voice of their master
- iii. Sheep knew their shepherd's voice
- iv. God's people hear Christ's voice speaking to them in Scripture. Its not just facts and history, it is the very words of the living God.

b. The Sheep Are Known By the Shepherd

- i. The shepherd knows his sheep intimately
- ii. The shepherd knows his sheep by name

iii. This isn't just a group relationship with Christ it is a personal one. He is intimately involved in your life. He knows you by name and desires a personal relationship with you.

c. The Sheep are Led Out by the Shepherd (4a)

i. The shepherd doesn't just lay down the law

ii. The shepherd leads the sheep

iii. The shepherd leads the sheep to find nourishment and goes before them protecting them from their enemies.

d. The Sheep Follow Their Shepherd

3. The Sheep Flee From the False Shepherds (5)

a. The sheep know their shepherd and they follow him

b. They follow do not follow those who have no authority to lead them

c. They refuse to follow those who are looking out for their own interests only.

B. The Pharisees Don't Understand Jesus' Parable (6)

1. Jesus Proves they are truly Blind

2. Jesus' Parable shows they do not understand spiritual truths

II. Jesus Explains the Parable (7-18)

A. Jesus is the Door (7-10)

1. Jesus is the only way into the fold (7-8)

a. Only through Jesus can one enter the fold

b. He is the gateway to come into God's people

c. No one is in right relationship with God who does not come through Jesus

2. Jesus Gives his Sheep Protection and Provision (9)

a. Those who claimed to be shepherds but did not come through Jesus are just thieves and robbers

b. Thieves and robbers don't care for the sheep, they want what's best for them.

c. Thieves and robbers pretend to be shepherds but use the sheep for their own ends.

d. Jesus is intimating that the Pharisees are the thieves and robbers.

e. God's true people don't respond to the thieves and robbers

i. The man born blind who was healed did not give in to what the Pharisees wanted him to believe

ii. Even though he was uneducated, his simple testimony refuted what the Pharisees were saying

iii. God was leading him into the light and he could not follow the false shepherds into darkness

f. Those entering the fold through Jesus are saved

i. They are safe from all danger

ii. There is nothing that can take them out of the fold

- iii. They are even safe from the false shepherds
 - iv. They can never be taken from the shepherd
 - e. Those entering the fold through Jesus have abundance
 - i. They are not simply kept safe in the sheep pen
 - ii. They are able to go in and out and find pasture
 - iii. they are able to enjoy life.
 - iv. They are fed and abundantly taken care of.
- 3. Jesus gives His sheep abundant life (10)
 - a. The false shepherds come to steal, kill, and destroy
 - i. They harm the sheep to get what they want
 - ii. They do damage in the way they teach and lead the sheep
 - iii. They want what's best for them, not for God's people
 - b. Jesus came so they may have abundant life
 - i. He does what is best for his people
 - ii. He cares for the life of his sheep
 - iii. He sacrifices all so that his sheep may live
 - c. Abundant life here is the same as "going in and out and finding pasture" in v. 9.
- B. Jesus is the Good Shepherd (11-18)
 - 1. Jesus is Concerned for His sheep (11-15a)
 - a. Jesus protects his sheep (11-13)
 - i. Jesus is the sacrificial shepherd (11)
 - a. Jesus protects and provides for the sheep by laying down his life
 - b. This is how sheep are brought into the fold – through his death
 - ii. The Robbers care only for themselves (12-13)
 - a. The Pharisees (robbers) will never put the sheep before themselves
 - b. They would rather keep their position than rejoice in the healing of the blind man
 - i. Instead of leading and protecting they hand the sheep over to the wolf (Satan)
 - ii. The sheep long for salvation and provision but the robbers can't save them. They only care for themselves when the wolf comes.
 - b. Jesus Knows His sheep intimately (14-15)
 - i. Jesus and the sheep are in relationship (14)
 - ii. Jesus knows them as he knows the father (15)
 - a. This means their relationship can't be broken
 - b. Jesus can no more leave his sheep than he can separate himself from the Father
 - 2. Jesus Unites the Sheep By Dying for them (15b-18)
 - a. Jesus lays down his life for them (15b)

- i. rather than flee when destruction comes, Jesus lays down his life for his sheep
- b. Jesus brings other sheep into the fold (16)
 - i. Jesus also opens the flock to other folds of sheep
 - ii. The sheep fold is God's Israel – this is who Jesus came to – but he has people among the Gentiles as well and he calls them into the fold
 - a) Notice that Jesus calls Jews and Gentiles into one fold with one shepherd
 - b) God doesn't have two people (Israel and the Church) He has one people (the Church made up of Jew and Gentile)
- c. Jesus chooses to die for them and rise again (17)
- d. Jesus has authority to take his life back from death (18)
 - i. Jesus has the authority to lay down his life
 - a. every man has this authority
 - b. any man can choose to die
 - ii. Jesus has the authority to take his life up again
 - a. Only God can rise from the dead
 - b. Only the true shepherd can defeat death
 - c. Death is the wolf that comes to take the sheep
 - d. Jesus protects the sheep from death and gives them abundant life through his sacrifice**

III. Jesus' Words Cause Light (understanding) and Darkness (rejection) to grow (19-21)

- A. The Pharisees divide again (19)
 - 1. This is exactly what happened in chapter 9 regarding the blind man
 - 2. They are divided again by what Jesus has said
 - a. Jesus is either a complete lunatic – demon possessed
 - b. Or Jesus is God
 - c. There are no other options and no room for fence sitting
- B. Some Pharisees descend further and further into darkness (20)
 - 1. They refuse to believe
 - 2. They become more blind
- C. Some Pharisees are given more light (21)
 - 1. Some believe his words
 - a. They say these are not the words of a demon possessed man
 - b. They believe he healed the blind man of chapter 9 and no one can do that without God's power

His sheep hear his voice – “do you hear his voice?”

His sheep follow him and won't follow a stranger – “Do you follow him?”

He perfectly protects his sheep – “Does this give you rest knowing he defeats all enemies?”