



❖ **Be a Shepherd Who Has the Sheep's Best Interest in Mind and Not Your Own (8, 10).**

- The context shows Jesus is speaking about the Scribes and Pharisees (religious professionals: *wolves, thieves and robbers*; 10:1; 9:40).
- They have a motive other than the best interests of the sheep. They have a different agenda than the good shepherd: ego, authority, financial gain or just pride. They use the sheep and God for their own ends.

❖ **Honor the Gate—Jesus is the Way of Salvation (9)**

- Jesus says *I am the gate—the* proper entrance for salvation (*shall be saved* v. 9).
- It is *the* gate that leads to salvation and abundant life.

❖ **Lay Down Your Life: You Are Here for the Sheep; not the Sheep for You (11-13)**

- Never be a hireling. Just as the good Shepherd laid down his life for you and us, you must lay down your life in time, reputation, risking being misunderstood, talked about, rejected, or betrayed. You share in the wounds of Jesus.
- Don't become a professional religious person. Never let that "I-Them" speech of frustration come out of your mouth. You are always them—a sheep as well. You are both sheep and shepherd under the Good Shepherd.

❖ **Know Your Sheep Well (14-16)**

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence of *the Good Shepherd* regards his voice (14)
  - Jesus' voice (his word) is known to the sheep
  - They know him and his voice.
  - Just as Jesus knows and is known by the Father.
  - Interpersonal intimate *knowing* is the emphasis.
- We know them by spending time with them.

❖ **Feed Them A Rich Diet But Only From the Word of God (4, 9)**

- Feed them well, a full diet. Cherish, study and unfold Scripture—it's the Shepherd's Voice. As John Stott says (and you do it so well), your job is to be an

interpreter from the biblical culture to our culture and to get the goods (the Truth) across the bridge from then to now. Remember, this is not your pulpit to say just anything on your mind. It belongs to Jesus and when you are preaching it is sacred. It is the Word of God—It's all that's in the pantry.

➤ We can never perfectly be the Shepherd's voice for others, but we must strive to honor, listen to, know and speak his voice alone. There are a lot of voices out there. The sheep don't need my voice, not talk-radio's voice, not so & so's podcast's voice, not popular culture's voice, not a political voice, not my cathartic emotional voice but Jesus' voice. We listen to and speak Scripture.

### ❖ Find the Lost Sheep (16)

➤ Luke 15 is the parable of the lost sheep, the woman and the lost coin, and the Prodigal Son. The context again is the Pharisees and Scribes. They had just *muttered*, "*This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.*"

➤ Finally, find the lost. Love sinners. Love the person who doesn't quite fit into the church scene. Love the outsider. Love people of other ethnicities, ages and interests. Cross the gap that Jesus crossed for you. It's one of the reasons God has blessed this church: hurting, the Broken. Error on the side of mercy.