

# John 10:1-42

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August 01, 2004

# Overview

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- The Good Shepherd (10:1-16)
- The Security of Christ's Sheep (10:17-30)
- The Eternal Son of the Father (10:31-42)

# The Shepherd and His Sheep (10:1-9)

## *Understanding The Symbolism*

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- **The Sheep Pen** - The sheep pen is either Judaism or the nation Israel
- **The Gate** - Jesus is the Gate for Jew and Gentile
- **The Thieves and Robbers** - Those (false messiahs?) who came before Jesus (v.8)
- **The Man Who Enters by the Gate** - Jesus
- **The Sheep** - Those who followed Christ
- **The Watchman** - John the Baptist or the Holy Spirit.
  - Robertson says it is not certain that Jesus meant this detail to have a special application.
- **The Stranger** - A shepherd of another flock
- **The Good Shepherd** - Jesus is the Good Shepherd

# The Shepherd and His Sheep (10:1-9)

## *The Main Points*

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- ⊖ Jesus is the Good Shepherd
  - Israel should have understood at once, for they were familiar with the Old Testament
  - Ps 23; 80:1; Isa 40:11; Jer 31:10; Ez 34:12-15
- ⊖ Jesus contrasts Himself with false shepherds who had appeared from time to time
- ⊖ Christ's sheep hear His voice and follow Him

# Abundant Life (10:10)

*I have come that they may have life...to the full*

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- Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. **John 6:35**
- Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; **John 11:25**
- Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **John 14:6**
- The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. **John 6:63**
- Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. **John 17:3**
- For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **Col. 3:3-4**

# The Good Shepherd (10:11-18)

## *Lays Down His Life for His Sheep*

*[W]hen he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away (v.12)*

*I lay down my life for the sheep (v.15)*

*I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. (v.16)*

- The wolf speaks generally of any enemy of the sheep, and specifically of false prophets or leaders who are evil, corrupt and exploitive.
- A hired hand tends the sheep for money, while the shepherd does it out of love and commitment
- Recall that the sheep pen is Israel or Judaism. The other sheep are the Gentiles who will believe in Jesus.

# The Good Shepherd (10:11-18)

## *Lays Down His Life for His Sheep*

- The Good Shepherd selflessly cares for his sheep.
  - This is as opposed to the bad shepherds *who only take care of themselves* (Ez 34:2).
  - That the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep emphasized the love of the shepherd for his sheep (cf. Jn 15:13).
  - This sort of shepherd love was exemplified by David (1Sa 17:34-35)
- The Good Shepherd does not run away when the wolves attack--we should expect the same of our shepherds
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd because He laid down His life
  - This speaks of His completed work in the past.
  - Today He is the Great Shepherd (Heb 13:20; cf. Ps 23).
  - And finally He is the Chief Shepherd who shall appear (1Pe 5:4).

# Jewish Unbelief (10:19-26)

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*At these words the Jews were again divided. Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?" (v.19-20)*

*The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me (v.10:25b)*

- It has been said that Jesus is either liar, lunatic, or Lord
  - If we believe He's just a man (as these people did), it's easy to believe He's also a lunatic (demon-possessed) or a liar
  - If we consider the miracles (vv.21,25), we must conclude He is Lord



# Jewish Unbelief (10:19-26)

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*but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.*  
(v.26)

- This had been the point in the allegory of the Good Shepherd.
  - Jesus had earlier called them children of the devil (8:43-44)
  - Though they may have seemed pious, they may actually have been wolves in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15)

# The Shepherd and His Sheep (10:27-30)

## *Jesus Knows His Sheep and Keeps Them Secure*

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*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*

*(v.27)*

- "The brand of ownership on the sheep is obedience. Do you want to know whether a person is saved or not? Then see if he is obeying Christ." See 1Jn 3:10 on this.

*I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. (v.28)*

- Notice that the sheep trying to get out of Jesus' hand is not even mentioned as a possibility here.
- The only possibility that Jesus even gives any consideration to is that of one (presumably the devil) snatching away one of His sheep.
  - Yet Jesus asserts that this is not possible
  - The security of the believer rests totally with God
  - Jesus seems to say the sheep couldn't get away if they wanted to

# The Shepherd and His Sheep (10:27-30)

## *Jesus Knows His Sheep and Keeps Them Secure*

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*My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one." (vv.29-30)*

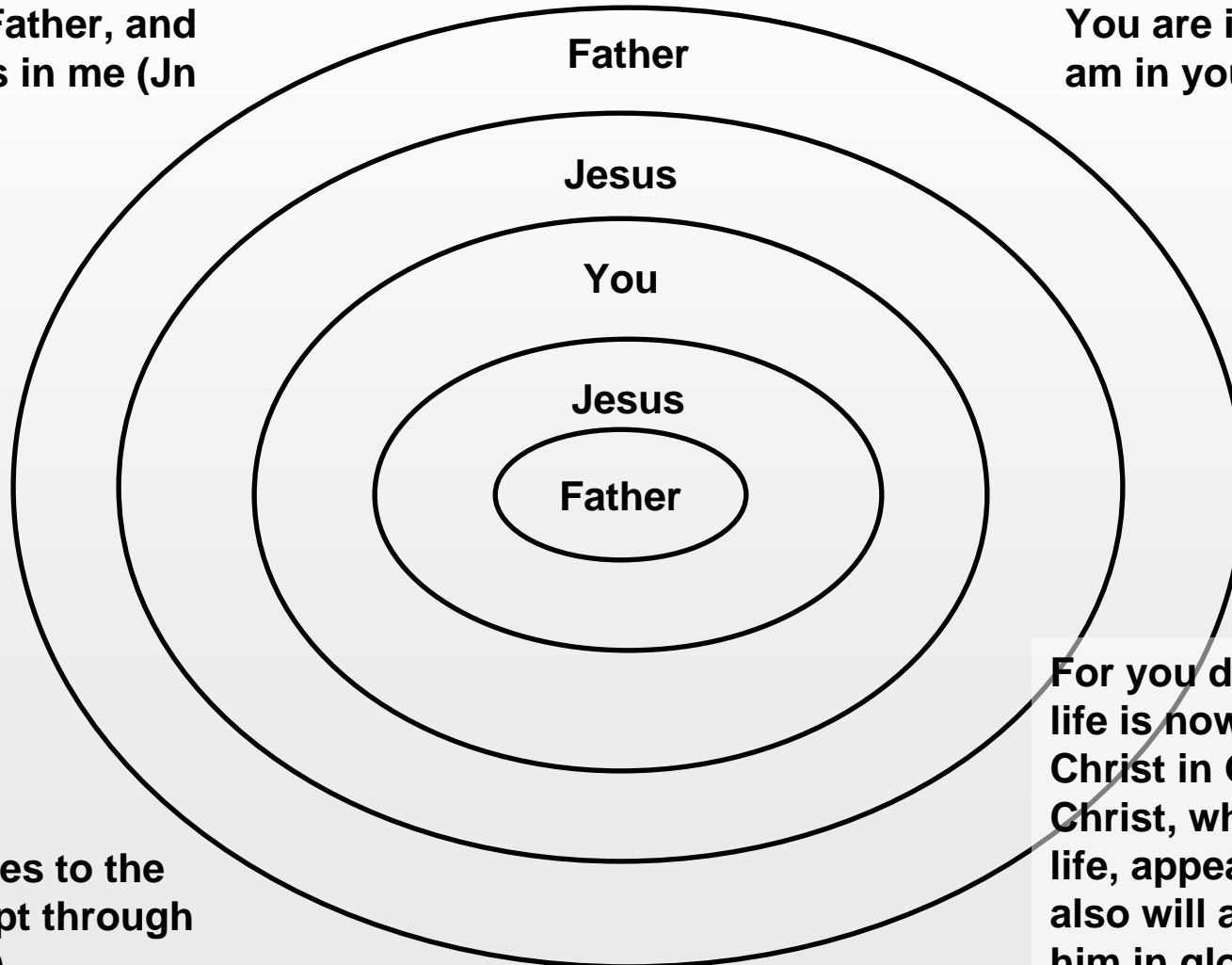
- Not only will no one ever snatch any of Jesus' sheep out of His hand
- Neither will anyone ever snatch them out of His Father's hand
- Why? Because Jesus and the Father are one!

# Jesus in the Father (10:38)

*“The Father is in me, and I in the Father”*

**I am in the Father, and  
the Father is in me (Jn  
14:10)**

**You are in me, and I  
am in you (Jn 14:20)**



**No one comes to the  
Father except through  
me (Jn 14:6)**

**For you died, and your  
life is now hidden with  
Christ in God. When  
Christ, who is your  
life, appears, then you  
also will appear with  
him in glory. Col. 3:3-4**

# Summary

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- The Good Shepherd (10:1-16)
- The Security of Christ's Sheep (10:17-30)
- The Eternal Son of the Father (10:31-42)
  - The Believer's Position in Christ

# Bibliography

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