*Lesson for 04/23/2017*

**The Good Shepherd Gathers His Sheep**

John 10:1-18

**Jesus the True Shepherd**

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

**Jesus Explains the Meaning**

7Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8All who *ever* came before Meare thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

11“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. 14I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep,* and am known by My own. 15As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd.

17“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

*Questions:*

1. In vs 1-2 what difference is described between a shepherd and a thief? Why would a thief not enter through the door -- what does Jesus mean by "climbing up some other way"?

2. In vs 3-5 how do the sheep respond to the shepherd's voice? What happens when a stranger calls the sheep? What can we learn from this about the sheep and their relationship to the shepherd?

3. The last part of vs 3 says the true shepherd calls his sheep by name. What significance do you think this held for the people in the crowd listening to Jesus? What significance does it have for you?

4. In this illustration what do you think is represented by the sheep, the shepherd, and the thieves? What does the sheeppen or sheepfold represent?

5. What does it mean in vs 6 when Jesus says "I am the door of the sheep"? How can Jesus say that He is both the door of the sheep and also the Good Shepherd in vs 11? (Why is this possible in an allegory?)

6. In vs 8 who does Jesus refer to "All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them"?

7. In vs 9-11 what are some of the characteristics of the Good Shepherd? What all is included in His provision for us to have life and have it more abundantly?

8. In vs 12-13 what is a hireling and how would a hireling act differently from a good shepherd and fail the sheep? What do the hirelings represent?

9. Who knows one another according to vs 14-15? (What is the point of this statement, and how should it be an encouragement to the true sheep?)

10. What does Jesus mean in vs 16 when He says He has other sheep not of this fold? Who are these sheep and what did He promise to do? What does the one flock represent in vs 16?

11. Vs 17 why does the Father love Jesus? What is the significance of His power to lay down His own life?