

Sunday Celebration (May 2, 2010) Membership Sunday
"The Passion of the Shepherd and the Purpose of the Flock"

INTRO ... *What Does it Mean to be Part of a Church?*

Jn 21:15-17 *The Concern of Christ to Care for Peter AND for You*

**What is This HUGE Task that Jesus Gives to Peter ... to Care for His Flock! =
SHEPHERD MY SHEEP**

"The emphasis now is on the pastoral rather than the evangelistic. Peter's love for his Lord and the evidence of his reinstatement, are both to be displayed in Peter's pastoral care for the Lord's flock."
D.A. Carson, "The Gospel According to John", PNTC, p. 678

Jn 10:7-16

All That Is Present in This Illustration is Speaking to Our Spiritual Lives... Each Part is Saying Something to Us:

A Good Shepherd Sheep Door Flock Danger Abundant
Life

Jesus Double Emphasis in Defining Himself: "I am THE Door" "I am the Good Shepherd"

v. 9-11 ... There's Something to ENTER INTO and there's a MEANS OF ENTERING

- **Enter Into the Abundant Life**
- **How Do You Enter the Good Life?**

.... Through the Doorway of The Good Shepherd who Lays Down His Life

Laying Down His Life is a MISSION STATEMENT for The Good Shepherd

The Strategy of God in "Delivering the Good Life" = Bringing Sheep Into the Flock of the Good Shepherd through the Death of Christ (The Doorway)

...In God's Plan the Abundant Life Has an ADDRESS

v. 12 ... The sheep are VULNERABLE to a Non-Abundant Existence = "snatched and scattered by wolves"

.... There's DANGER Outside the Flock of God

Ezek 34:11-12... 14-16... 31

The PASSION of the SHEPHERD (What is God After?)

v. 11 ... "Behold, I" ... can be translated, "**Here I am**" ... the personal presence of God – The Flock is the Place of the Personal Presence of God

v. 12 ... "**I will rescue them**" Scattered sheep are in DANGER!!

v. 12 ... **Conditions that Scatter Sheep** – CLOUDS & THICK DARKNESS

v. 14 ... "**I will feed them** with good pasture"

v. 15 ... ***"I will make them lie down"*** – picture of REST

v. 16 ... ***I will care for the LOST ... the STRAYED ... the INJURED ... the WEAK***

v. 31 ... **You are My sheep... and I am your God**

"Indeed, as the concluding thematic statement affirms, the primary concern of the chapter is not wicked shepherds but the relationship of the Good Shepherd and his flock." Daniel Block, *"The Book of Ezekiel" (Chap. 25-48), NICOT, p. 277*

Jn 10

v. 16 ... "I have other sheep ...I must bring them also"

v. 16 ... "So there will be one flock, one shepherd"

- The Plan of God is to Gather His People into a "Flock", and in That Setting HE Will Care for Them and They will Experience Abundant Life

v. 28 ... "they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand" ... they are protected

THE PASSION OF THE SHEPHERD AND THE PURPOSE OF THE FLOCK

- God's Will and Desire and Plan is NOT Detached from MEANS. ...

- God has the Intention to "Bring Other Sheep into His Flock" ... and He Intends to Shepherd Them

-- How Will He Bring Them In? ... The Commissioning of Jn 20, Matt 28,

2Cor 5:18-21 ...The Cry of ReconciliationThrough us

-- How Will He Shepherd Them? ... "Peter ... Shepherd My Sheep"

"Shepherd" = Poimaino (Gk.) (verb)

Acts 20:28-31 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be alert,

-- Remember: Jn 10:12 ... the Vulnerability of the Sheep to be SNATCHED from the Abundant Life; Jn 10:28 "No one will snatch them out of my hand"

1 Peter 5:1-4 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

- "among you" ...

Eph 4:11-12 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

- pastors = shepherds (Gk. – poimen (noun))