

The Good Shepherd

John 10

by Don Falkos

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Jesus said, "Only a thief climbs over the wall of the sheepfold. The shepherd enters through the gate. He calls his sheep by name, and they follow him because they know his voice.

"I AM the gate for the sheep. I will save everyone who enters through me. All who came before me were thieves offering death. I have come offering life in all its fullness.

"I AM the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and they know me. When danger presents itself, a hired hand would simply run away. But I sacrifice my life for my sheep. I give them eternal life, and no one can take them away from me. I have other sheep that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, too, and there will be one flock with one shepherd. I have the authority to lay down my life when I choose and the authority to take it up again."

Some rejected Jesus altogether. Others recognized something special about him.

Jesus was back in Jerusalem for Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication. People gathered around him in the Temple and said, "Don't keep us in suspense. If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus replied, "I've already told you, but you don't believe. So look at the miracles I do in my Father's name. Then you'll understand... I and the Father are one."

The crowd accused Jesus of blasphemy and picked up stones to kill him, but he escaped them. He went to a place east of the Jordan where John used to baptize. People there said, "John didn't perform miraculous signs, but everything he said about this man is true." And many believed in Jesus.