

JOHN 10 vs 7

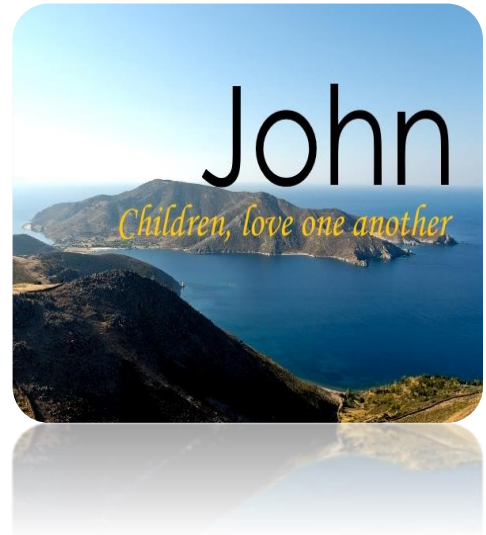
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In this chapter, John who was a follower, and **eye-witness to Jesus** just wrote: the sheep hear the Shepherd's voice and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out. And a stranger they will not follow, but will run away from him: for they do not know the voice of strangers; so the good Shepherd; the good Pastor doesn't say, Hey, you! He knows His sheep who follow Him, by name. And John tells us, Jesus kept this conversation going.

⁷ Then Jesus said, Amen! Amen! I say to you,

I am the Door of the sheep / He kept verbally pounding away on their hard-heads; and He was excited. And notice this is not a double-door entrance. It's not Jesus and someone or something; definitely not Jesus PLUS something.



⁸ All of them who ever came, are thieves and robbers / ALL of them, too numerous to detail: blind Pharisees, hirelings, false prophets, false teachers, antichrists, false messiahs, and of course all the hocus pocus workers, too! **All of them** claiming to be shepherds **who did not enter by the Door**, but attempting to enter illegally and climb up some other way -- ANY other way;

All of them who ever came, are thieves and robbers:

but the sheep did not listen to them.

⁹ I am the Door! / for a second time, Jesus tells us: shutting that Door secures all inside, like Noah's Ark... secure from all who think they can enter... any other way.

by Me if any one enters in, **he will be saved**, and will go in and out, and find pasture. / anybody want to argue with Jesus?

¹⁰ The thief / now, Jesus could have said, the thieves and robbers; He could have said, all of them who ever came. He could have said, the blind Pharisees, the hirelings and hocus-pocus workers. He could have added, the deceivers and seducers; or as Paul said, the lovers of self rather than lovers of GOD.

But Jesus didn't have time; and Jesus said,

The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy / all these imposters who attempted to enter another way, they only came to steal. Matthew Henry says, to steal those hearts that they had no title to. They steal away the scripture by not declaring it; or by keeping it in unknown tongues; keeping it from those who never heard, while they congregate and satiate themselves, and never share with others.

Deceivers of souls are murderers of souls. Those whom they cannot rob, they will by persecution and violence steal, kill and destroy; going on today. Jesus said, he who hates his brother is a murderer, already.

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The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy / climbing up some other way:

I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly / the word is zoe: life eternal... the Shepherd is on a rescue mission for His lost sheep, in the territory of the greatest thief... lost among the living-dead... to provide them life eternal with GOD. He came to seek those who were lost; He came to heal the blind; to bind up the broken-hearted. In other words, He came to give life... to the sheep.

¹¹ **I am the good Shepherd** / even Peter understood, when Jesus said to him, **Feed MY sheep**. There is only one good Shepherd. The sheep belong to Jesus... and nobody else. You know some of our tragic traditional thinking makes void, and cancels the word of God, doesn't it? There are lots of people who do not want us to know these good words of Jesus;

so to irritate them, let's hear Him again:

I am the good Shepherd / remember: we can equally say, **I am the good Pastor** / if we're going to use the word let's be consistent: **the good Shepherd** /

the good Pastor gives his life / clearly,

gives his last breath... for the sheep / how different Jesus is when compared to any political, civil or religious hack, even now; empty speech makers, claiming to lead some group; always leading from their behind.

¹² **But he who is a hireling** / you know, hired help; just doing a job -- yawning! handling the things of GOD profanely, casually; as if they were just common place; careless in discharging their duty; negligent towards the sheep.

But he who is a hireling and not the pastor, whose own the sheep are not / the sheep don't belong to him,

he sees the wolf coming, and abandons the sheep, and flees / **a stalking wolf can attack and kill you in less than a minute**, he sees danger coming; you know, clergy who suddenly leave the congregation! Oh, they're called to another location -- that's what we hear; but really, they leave the sheep;

and the wolf catches them and scatters them / six times the word: wolf is used in the NT. In Acts 20, Paul in his last message to the church warns... of the wolves that will come; and the hireling flees as the wolf viciously catches the sheep, going for the jugular vein, ripping the sheep to pieces as the others scatter;



Jesus says...

¹³ **and he runs away, because he is a hireling, and in truth does not care for the sheep** / as Matthew Henry said 300 years ago, of the best, still the sheep are not their own. They are bought with a price. **Jesus said to Peter, Feed MY sheep; feed MY lambs, Jesus' sheep belong to HIM!** HE purchased them. And for a second time... probably because Jesus knows some do not listen well...

Jesus says...

¹⁴ **I am the good Shepherd / the good Pastor** / and though other shepherds and pastors might be; how much do you want to bet, **Jesus is, and always will be the good Pastor,**

So, hear Him again...

I am the good Shepherd / the good Pastor... and know My sheep, and Mine know Me / and did you catch that order? C.S. Lewis said, We know that no one comes to the Father except through the Son -- and that is true.

We also know, the Son knows His sheep; but, what we do not know is: do they need to know the Son? Or will they be like those who, not having seen, still recognize His voice?

Jesus says...

I am the good Pastor, and know My sheep, and Mine know Me / however ill-taught and mismanaged and endangered the sheep will be, the Lord is still and always will be the good Shepherd; He knows His sheep and they know Him; and He gives us this assurance:

¹⁵ **As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father** / in other words: the Father and the Son understand each other perfectly well. Between Them... there is no misunderstanding or uncertainty.

even so I know the Father / our Father in heaven, the only Father that matters, **and I lay down My last breath... for the sheep** / and in prophetic tone, Jesus answers the prideful religious leaders, who snidely thought nothing of the little rag-tag band of disciples following Him.

¹⁶ **And I have other sheep that are not of this fold** / not of this flock, not of this chosen **Jewish stock** Jesus is talking about the lost sheep of the **House of Israel**... scattered among the nations; they will come from every nation, tribe and tongue. By the way, the **Jewish people** never carried the light of GOD's Good News to the nations, but **those of the House of Israel** did:

I have other sheep which are not of this flock, I must also bring them, and they will hear My voice; and there will become one flock, and one good Pastor / and why must HE bring them? Because He is the only good Pastor; because He alone really knows the way. Because He said He is building His church; gathering His great congregation; and, if He does NOT bring them back, they will wander aimlessly, endlessly. Only HE can do it; they will only hear His voice.

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17 For this, My Father loves Me, because to My last breath I will lay down My life, that I might lift it up again.

18 No one takes My life from Me, but I lay it down by My own self. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to lift it up again. This command I received from My Father.

And what was the response to the only Good Pastor?

19 And there was a division again among the Jewish leaders / those blind, hypocritical, prideful religious leaders because of these words.

20 For this, many of them said, He has a demon, and He is crazy; why do you listen to Him?

21 but others said, These are **not the words of One who is demonized. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?**

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