



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: The Good Shepherd

Date: August 31, 2025

Scripture Text: John 10:22-42

Notes:

As we wrap up John 10, we hit the halfway point through the gospel according to John. We start the final three months before the crucifixion of Jesus. The Jewish religious leadership continue to challenge Jesus and His ministry. Evidence is mounting that He is who He says He is, the Messiah. As the evidence mounts, the pressure to kill Him increases. Those who know the scriptures best are not willing to accept the fact the Jesus is the Christ. Jesus did not meet their expectation of who Messiah would be and as a result they missed being part of His flock (refer back to [John 10:1-21](#)). Does Jesus meet your expectation? Are there blessings you may miss because you wanted something different than what Jesus was calling you to do? How can you better align your expectations with Jesus'? How can you better follow the direction of the Good Shepherd?

We pick up 2-3 months after John 10:21. The eight-day Festival of Dedication (also called Hanukkah and the Festival of Lights) celebrated the rededication of the Jewish temple in December of 164 BC after its desecration by the Seleucid ruler Antiochus Epiphanes in 167 BC.

I. The Confrontation with the Good Shepherd ([John 10:24-30](#))

The Jewish religious leaders confronted Jesus demanding He plainly answer their question, was He the Messiah? Jesus replied He had done what they asked. "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me." ([vs. 25](#)). He was saying that His works testified plainly that He was indeed the Messiah. The implication was that these religious leaders should be able to recognize the works of God and connect Jesus' actions to be from God.

- What was the reason Jesus gave for the religious leaders' unbelief that Jesus was the Messiah?
- A characteristic of the sheep of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is that they know His voice and follow.
 - What does it mean to 'know the voice' of Jesus?
 - How well can you recognize Jesus' voice?
 - His sheep follow Him. What does it look like to follow Jesus?
 - What are barriers or challenges to you following Jesus with every aspect of your life?



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- Jesus also said that His sheep have eternal life and cannot be snatched away.
 - What does it mean that Jesus' sheep cannot be snatched away?
 - How does knowing this encourage you in your daily walk with Christ?
 - How would you describe to someone the eternal security that comes with accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?

II. The Condemnation of the Good Shepherd (John 10:31-33)

The religious leaders picked up stones and once again attempted to stone Jesus. Jesus asked why they were seeking to kill Him. "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" ([vs. 32](#)). They accused Him of blasphemy. Their unwillingness to accept that what Jesus was saying was true put them in direct odds with God's will and works. They were the blasphemers, not Jesus.

- The religious leaders had a passion, but it was headed in the wrong direction. They were too busy relying on their own understanding of Messiah and not God's. How could a group, especially a group whose job was to know the scriptures, be so misdirected?
- How might someone get misdirected today, thinking they are doing God's will, but doing the opposite?
- What are examples of people thinking they are doing God's will yet doing the opposite?
- How can you make sure you are on the right track when doing the will of God?

III. The Confirmation of the Good Shepherd (John 10:34-39)

Jesus replies to their charge of blasphemy, that He had claimed to be God with His words, but by His works His words had been confirmed. Jesus' words and works were consistent with both what scripture said about the Messiah, and being from God the Father. Nothing else was needed to prove Jesus' Messiahship.

- As Jesus stated, His works confirmed His words. List some of the works of Jesus that demonstrated He was the Messiah.
- What are ways people question Jesus' free gift of eternal life today?
- How would you describe to a lost person the way to heaven?
- What are examples of Jesus' works we can experience today?
- Describe the works you've experienced personally.