

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (John 10:1-21)

1. Have you ever been to a place where there was somebody guarding the entrance determining who could enter?
(Possibly theme parks, sporting events, concerts, museums, etc.)

What was required for you to be able to enter?

Have you ever been refused entrance because you didn't have what was needed to enter?

How is this related Jesus' own words in John 10?

How is Jesus' authority on display and what is the specific access that Jesus provides?

2. Read 10:1-6

In this passage, Jesus speaks generally about shepherds, sheep, and thieves & robbers.

As you look at these opening statements, what parallels do you see with our own lives and Christ as our Shepherd?

How does his statement about thieves and robbers relate to false teachers in our day?

How is this analogy so appropriate for the false teachers?

As it is recorded in verse 6, many of those listening didn't understand Jesus' words - so he clarifies further.

Have you had an experience like this - where you didn't understand what God's Word meant initially?

If so, how did you move forward from there?

Did you ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate the truth and guide you?

Did you move past it and ignore that part altogether?

Did you seek wisdom from other resources to help you better understand the text?

Did it lead you to further question the Lord or struggle in your faith in some way?

3. Multiple times, Jesus describes the relationship He has with His sheep as the Good Shepherd.

As you read through this passage, what stands out to you about His description of this relationship?

What does it mean to "know His voice" & how does this impact our relationship with Jesus?

Have you ever mistaken the voice of another for him?

How did you learn of the mistake and did it help you to better understand his voice for the future?

As the "Good Shepherd" - how does He uniquely care for His sheep beyond the call of duty?

How do we benefit from Jesus being our Good Shepherd?

What impact does His shepherding have on our relationship with all of His other sheep?

4. Read Verse 10

In this verse, Jesus clarifies the difference between His work and that of all others who've tried to lead His sheep astray.

Have you ever been misled by a false teacher who was only looking to steal, kill, and destroy?

How were you able to see him or her for what he or she actually was?

What does Jesus mean when He says that He has come that we might have life and have it abundantly?

How have you specifically experienced abundant life in Him (temporally and eternally)?
Do you find yourself struggling to believe that life in Him is truly the abundant life?
Are there specific places in your life where you're looking for fulfillment apart from Jesus Himself?
(i.e. turning to sin to fulfill needs and desires that ultimately Jesus provides for)?
According to this passage, how can we best experience abundance in this life?

5. Jesus refers to Himself as the door multiple times.

As the door, what is He the door to, and why does this matter in our (and everybody else's) lives?

What are the promises made to all who enter through Him as the door?

What are the statements made about those who enter another way?

What are their goals with the sheep compared to His?

How does Jesus, as the door, provide greater freedom for us than we would have otherwise?

If He is the door, what does it mean about our access to the Father - and is there any other way to gain such access?

How does this truth resonate with you in your life?

5. Toward the latter part of this section, Jesus speaks plainly about what He will do and by what authority He will do it.

What is so significant about His prophetic statement here?

What is the result of the work that He mentions here?

How do we directly benefit from His sacrificial demonstration of love (for God AND for us)?

Does this lead you to worship Him more deeply in your life?

Does it help you to realize that, as He fulfilled His promises here, He will also fulfill all other promises He's made?

That means that, as He has been raised from the dead, He will also raise us from the dead to eternal life!!

This ought to cause us to desire to worship and obey Him all the more!

6. Below are the "So What?" statements from the end of the sermon.

Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

1. Jesus brings together ALL who belong to Him!
2. Jesus' sheep listen to His voice & reject the others!
3. Jesus is the only way to God the Father!
4. Jesus provides a truly abundant life to His followers!
5. Jesus sacrifices Himself for the good of His sheep!