

Gamma – Gospel of John

Book	Gospel of John
Topic	The Good Shepherd
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We are looking at the third of the discourses:

Jesus the Door and Jesus the Shepherd.

The conversation today takes place in the context of the last chapter where the seeing people were blind or the blind person became seeing and so therefore it was great opposition.

[John 9:40-41 \(ESV\)](#) Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

So basically he is actually criticizing the Pharisees and the religious leaders at that time. Is it in that context that he speaks about

[John 10:1-2 \(ESV\)](#) 1 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

Jesus was criticizing the religious leaders of the land. They are the ones who come in by the other way. So basically this speech is about thieves and robbers versus the real shepherd. Jesus is the good shepherd and the thieves and the robbers are basically the Pharisees.

[John 10:3-6 \(ESV\)](#) To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

They didn't understand because they were the thieves and robbers. So therefore there are two metaphors which Jesus is mixing together, in case you get confused. First of all, Jesus says, I am the door

John 10:7-10 (ESV) So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door** of the sheep. **8** All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. **9** I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 10:11 (ESV) **I am the good shepherd**. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

So actually there are two metaphors. How can Jesus be the door and the shepherd at the same time. They are what we call mixed metaphors. For example, if you look in Revelations, Jesus is both the lion and the lamb. There are mixed metaphors to give you different ideas. So the function of the door metaphor is basically that the sheep herder puts the sheep in the pen and there is no gate and he usually sits at the door. The thief and the robbers will climb over the fence. So they are the robbers and for the door, if you go through the door, you go through Jesus, good pasture, abundant life but the robbers will come in, the sheep will not listen to them. They steal, they kill and they destroy. So therefore the religious people are the thieves, they are the messianic pretenders, which are those who come and say they are the messiah and they usually lead people to go and rebel against the Roman occupying force. They have caused a lot of problem, death and misery because of these people. They are also political thieves, people who come and use the people.

If you look into the study of global missions, Ecclesiastical crime in 2014 which means stealing from church is 39 billion US dollars, which is 6% of all the money donated to churches. Income of global foreign missions is actually 35 billion. It is a significant problem, the church is filled with thieves and robbers. Unreported fraud for churches is at 95% and secular corporations is actually 66%. So actually the churches do worse than corporations.

There was an interview with Pastor Nathan Avidian of City Harvest Church. A lot of other pastors in Singapore didn't do anything, didn't correct Kong Hee. He said that,

It's connected with an Asian mindset that "we've lost this game, this competition, and it looks like this younger guy has done better than us, because he's got the largest attendance."

It is not the number of people in a congregation, it is the truth that you speak and the typical modus operandi is what he shares.

I am able to vouch the fact that he was surrounded by yes-men. They were not real men. They were not challenging his decisions. They were not asking him to validate his statements or doctrine from the Scripture, or how the word of God should be applied at the grassroots level.

You always see a problem in the churches when you got one guy and all of the rest are yes-man and they would typically choose yes-man to basically booster themselves because they actually got very low self-esteem. Manipulative leaders, we need to be careful about. They will always have a few characteristics.

1. They were never be truly vulnerable, they will always seem perfect.
2. They will always have the truth, they are never wrong.
3. They will always make sure you submit.
4. There is always something wrong with you.

Roman Catholic use rituals. They have created this thing called Mass, which is a service and in that Mass you must have a priest and he takes the bread and he converts the bread into the body of Christ. They use this as a political tool many centuries ago as well.

The shift from true faith to idolism is very-very subtle and it happens. Some of the people venerate the cross.

The effect of these leaders

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 10:11-15 (ESV) I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12** He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. **13** He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. **14** I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, **15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

To be called sheep is actually a terrible-terrible insult. They are calculated as one of the stupidest animals on the face of the earth. Sheep are actually totally defenseless, they follow each other. So actually to be called we are sheep and he is shepherd, is actually an insult because you couldn't have chosen a most stupider kind of animal who cannot actually survive, it's totally helpless and useless and perhaps why Jesus choose this metaphor is that when we look at us we are as stupid as the sheep, we only follow the next sheep. There is no real standard, we just do whatever we need to do. so that's why perhaps this is a good metaphor for us.

Function of the good shepherd metaphor

GOOD SHEPHERD	HIRED HELP
Shepherd	Hired hand no shepherd
Owens sheep	Does not own sheep
Recognition by sheep	Does not care for sheep

Personal intimate knowledge of sheep	Abandons sheep
Sacrificial love and protection	No loyalty
Mission to gather other sheep	No love

So the choices between the robber and the true shepherd and why choose the good shepherd, there are about six points inside this passage that we can reflect on.

9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

1. He gives us salvation and abundant life.

A lot of people the charms of the world look very exciting at first, but actually in the end what the world offers you kills you. The life abundantly is not a physical life, life is a quality of life that is from heaven. John whenever he uses the word life is not 'bios' which is the length of wife, it is 'zoe' which means is a quality of life which is eternal. The word life in Greek is 'Perissos' which means it is a quality of life, extraordinary life, beyond what is necessary. It is an extravagant life, which means it is not boring. It's wonderful, it is special, it is extra and some people take this verse, I come to give you life and give you abundantly and then they will interpret as the word of faith movement. There are people who misinterpret this and say, because Jesus promise you abundant life, you just claim it by faith then it will happen. So this focuses you on a right centered gospel, which means all Christians have a right to be victorious and thinks that bad things happen due to sin and if you are not successful, if you are not rich that means you have no faith or you have sinned. So therefore you must have positive confession.

Hebrews 11:35-40 (ESV) Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— 38 of whom the world was not worthy— wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. 39 And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The quality of life that the Good shepherd will bring, is your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. The kin of quality of life that you can actually experience now and comes to a height that expect later on. So the good shepherd brings you salvation and abundant life and it brings you intimacy.

John 10:3-4 (ESV) To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

John 10:14 (ESV) I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father

There is a relationship between sheep and shepherd. There is an intimacy between them. When Jesus say I am the gate, he means that you have to go through the gate. That means you have to go through a person. Every religion in this world tells you to follow set of rules, but Jesus comes and says 'I am the door'. The only way you can go across the door is to interact with the door. The door, Jesus is the way. Our faith is different; it is based not on the set of rules but is set best on a relationship with a single person. So that person must be your shepherd and when Shepherd is, there is issue of intimacy.

Intimacy is extremely important. It is a central feature that we are alone. 40% of us will feel alone at some stage. 60% of lonely people are actually married. They are lonely in their marriages because there is something that needs to be fulfilled that nobody else can fulfill. Psychologists says we have different needs.

1. Need for significance.
2. Need for love and connection.
3. Significance

Everybody wants to be significant. The need for significance and connection is extremely important. it is actually hardwired into the humans and in fact if you look at what Isaiah writes

Isaiah 49:16 (ESV) Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

When you know that God knows your name, nothing else can defeat you and it is a wonderful thought. When you have any problem in your life and you lift up the verse and it says God knows my name. That's the only thing that matters.

The intimacy of the sheep/shepherd relationship is actually grounded upon the intimacy between the father and son. Just as the father knows Jesus Christ, the shepherd is known by the sheep. He is taking the two relationships and he is saying their mutual knowledge is exactly the same. The strength of the knowledge between father and son, the eternal strength is the same strength that between the sheep and the shepherd. This is amazing, how can our relationship with God, the strength and depth of His intimacy be the same as the one between the father and the son. He writes it there and that's why John is astounded. Because it gives you this stuff which no other gospel gives you. It tells you, this is the relationship. It is an eternally unbreakable bound. If you are going to say that the

sheep will be lost from the shepherd or the shepherd is lost from the sheep, it cannot happen.

2. His voice – His word

John 10:3-4 (ESV) To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice

When you hear the word of God, it is properly explained to you. The word of God if you actually teach it properly, explain it properly becomes exciting as the sheep hear his voice. So right now if we are preaching the word properly, you will get excited because when you hear the voice you will say it makes sense to me.

3. Self-Sacrificial Love

John 10:11 (ESV) I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

There is sacrifice involved. The people who are not believers of anything will say, death is the same as life before birth, life beyond death, death is nothing to worry about. Why, because there is no soul. Death cannot affect the living nor can it effect the dead.

Christopher Hitchens is one of the most famous atheist. They asked him a question in a debate with Frank Turek once and they asked him what is the meaning of life because you say there is no God. He says my meaning of life is what cheers me up, which is gloating over the misfortune of others, irony and sex. That's all the three things that he enjoys in his life but the reality is death is a tragedy. When you actually come to face death, you go to any funeral, it is a tragedy, is a wretchedness, a beautiful person cut short, however old you are it is a tragedy and Jesus Christ gives his life voluntarily. He says,

Voluntary sacrifice

John 10:17-18 (ESV) For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

Jesus's death has no claim. He is the only person in the world where death has no claim, so he lays it out voluntarily on the cross. Not only that, it is a joyful sacrifice. When God does it, he actually does it voluntarily with great joy and basically the father loves the son because of the greatness and beauty of his perfections and the son sacrificially loves us and by sacrificially loving us, he actually completes the father's joy. It is related.

18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

So when Jesus Christ was encountered here in Luke 4.

Luke 4:29-30 Jesus with angry mob

They rose up and cast Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, He went His way.

He let his life down, he let him die voluntarily. When it was not his time, he passed through the whole bunch of people who came to throw him down, they couldn't touch him, he passed through their midst.

Luke 13:31-32 Jesus with Herod

"Go away and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You." But Jesus said, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.'"

It doesn't matter how much Herod will threaten him, I will continue to do my work. Nobody takes his life.

Matt 26:53 Jesus at garden of Gethsemane

Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

So Jesus was not accidentally caught up. If you look in the gospels, he purposely went towards death. He chose the time of his death. He wasn't accidentally killed.

Psalms 40:7-8 (ESV) Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: 8 I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.

So Jesus is saying, on the cross I delight to do your will, which means he gladly dies with joy for us. Because it is on obedience to the father. His resurrection proof of his freedom.

4. He will Give Us Purpose

John 10:4-5 (ESV) 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers

So the metaphor of the sheep is that, he knows how weak we are, he knows we need leadership, he knows we will be led astray, he knows we will fall over, he cannot be righted up. He knows we will run away,

[Psalms 23:2-4 \(ESV\) He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.](#)

This even speaks to children, even children can recognize this. The problem is we want Jesus Christ like this, but we don't want him to lead us in every path of our lives. Funeral time, we will talk about very nice shepherd, shepherd to guide me the rest of my life I don't want. He can't be your shepherd if it is only at the funeral. For him to be your shepherd, he must lead you every single day. You need a purpose.

Paul Gascoigne and Gary Lineker were two famous footballers. Paul became a drunkard and Gary became a sports caster. Gary had a purpose in life, one didn't have purpose in life and one had no purpose in life. Without a purpose in life, you will be utterly lost.

5. He owns us

Those other leaders who are hired help, they didn't own the sheep, Jesus owns the sheep.

[John 10:4 \(ESV\) When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice](#)

Why is it important? Here are all the signs that Jesus is the son of God. His miracles, he has lived a sinless life, his teaching and all sorts of prophecy. This passage is anchored on a prophecy in the Old Testament, you cannot understand John 10 if you don't read Ezekiel 34

[Ezekiel 34:1-13 \(ESV\) The word of the Lord came to me: 2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? 3 You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. 4 The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. 5 So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered; 6 they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them. 7 "Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: 8 As I live, declares the Lord God, surely because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all](#)

the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep,

This is an indictment against every single corrupt leader in Israel. Instead of looking after the sheep, going after the sheep, they were preying on the sheep. Every political leader in every country is doing the same thing.

9 therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: **10** Thus says the Lord God, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep. No longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them. The Lord God Will Seek Them Out **11** "For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. **12** As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. **13** And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

Ezekiel 34:23-24 (ESV) And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. **24** And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.

Thousands of year later on, if you start the Book of Matthew, you will see the genealogy, which leads all the way down to Jesus who comes from the house of David. So God has seen the suffering of his people and the only way this people can be saved and find comfort and safety and direction and purpose in their life is with the shepherd, because the shepherd owns us.

6. He Looks Out for All his Sheep

John 10:16 (ESV) And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Jesus's heart is to look out for the lost sheep.

Luke 15:3-7 (ESV) **3** So he told them this parable: **4** "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? **5** And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. **6** And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' **7** Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

He is a type of God that doesn't let you keep on being lost. He will go and look for the one sheep out of the 99. So therefore, he will go and look for you.

Peter Cameron Scott was actually the founder of the African Inland Mission. He went to Africa once and he felt sick with the Malaria, he had to return. He went to Africa again to try to share the gospel and this time he brought his brother, John and they felt sick again and his brother John died. He went back to England and he actually went to Westminster Abbey and he stood in front of the Tomb of David Livingstone and when he was there he read this verse

John 10:16 (ESV) And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

When he read that verse on the tomb, he thought God spoke to him. He went back to Africa again the third time, this time he survived and started the African Inland Mission which was actually the basis of lot of evangelism and salvation of lot of Africans today because God is always looking for the other sheep.

John 6:37-39 (ESV) 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

This is the guarantee. He has sheep in this country, outside this church that belong to him. They are all out there, they all belong to him and our job is to actually go out and find that sheep and give our lives to look for those sheep and to save them.

Adolfo Kaminsky was a Jew. He died recently. He was a master forger. During the time of Hitler, there were 1000s of people being deported to the camps to be killed and what he did was that he forged all their pictures and made passports for them. He wrote, *"If I sleep for an hour, 30 people will die."*

So he works around the clock, almost killing himself in the process and with all these false papers actually saved 11,000 children. 14,000 was sent to the camps and died but he actually saved 11,000 children and that kind of legacy of that man. They asked him a question, did you ever feel guilty about surviving. He said, *'My friends who survived killed themselves. My worked saved my life.'* You cannot live the kind of life where you always looking after yourself.

Jesus said,

Mark 8:35 (ESV) For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

If you are looking for happiness, you are looking for a shepherd, the shepherd will tell you that he has other sheep. If you are feeling down and you are feeling unsure of the gospel, you should tell the gospel to somebody else. When you tell the gospel to somebody else, the conviction in your voice will strengthen your heart and it will be real. We all need a purpose, but if you are hanging to your life and your wealth and your riches you will lose it. As Adolfo Kaminsky said, *'My friends who survived killed themselves, my work saved my life.'* Our mission saves our life.