

# The DAILY JESUS NEWS #165

## Jesus' Final Teaching At the Feast: "I AM the Door, and the Good Shepherd"

### The Good Shepherd vs. A Stranger

JN 10.1-6

*1 "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.*

*3 "The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."*

6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	The Streets of Jerusalem
Timeline	September (Month 31)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	B. Jesus' Ministry at the Feast of Tabernacles
	5. Jesus' Final Teaching at Tabernacles: "I AM the Door, and Good Shepherd
Title	i. The Good Shepherd vs a Stranger

#### COMMENT:

Jesus' dialogue with the Pharisees in the streets of Jerusalem in John Ch. Nine continued without a break into Chapter Ten. Jesus moved from the light-darkness/sight-blindness theme of Chapters Eight and Nine to another important background concept for the Feast of Tabernacles: God as "the Good Shepherd."

God's shepherd-like care for his people during the Exodus, and over the forty years of sojourning in the wilderness of Sinai was the heart of the Feast. (For a brief introduction to the Feast of Tabernacles and John 7.11 to 10.21, see the [DAILY JESUS NEWS #144.](#))

Jesus made two more "I AM" statements in John Ch. 10: "I AM the Door," and "I AM the Good Shepherd." These two compound titles for Jesus were both related to taking care of sheep, and were therefore appropriate to the Feast.

In today's reading Jesus contrasted the way "strangers," or "thieves" related to the sheep, and his own loving care for them. "Strangers" had no genuine love or concern for the welfare of the sheep. They were just working to earn money; they did not care what kind of work they had to do as long as they were paid for it. Therefore they used the sheep for their own purposes and benefit.

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Jesus was thinking primarily of the Pharisees themselves as "strangers;" self-interested leaders who took advantage of God's people for their own gain. They had just exhibited this behavior by excommunicating the healed man from the Synagogue--all because he told them the truth when they repeatedly demanded to hear his testimony. They will soon reveal themselves to be real thieves and murderers in the way they manipulate the trial of Jesus to bring down the death sentence upon him.

In the big picture of the flow of Jesus' life and teachings, Chapter 10 fits seamlessly with the teaching on true greatness, which Jesus presented at the very end of his Withdrawal period (Matt. 18), just before the Feast of Tabernacles. The "Doorkeeper" and "Good Shepherd" ministries of Jesus were shining examples of lowly, loving servant-leadership in action.

### APPLICATION:

Thieves are willing to say and do just about anything for their own benefit, at the expense of others. Destructive behavior is inevitably self-centered. Love builds up; selfishness tears others down.

*Do you consistently build others up, or tear them down with your words and behavior?*

*How can you be more like Jesus--the Good Shepherd--in your care-giving relationships with others?*