

Series: Life to the Full; *Sermon:* **The Good Shepherd**
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* **April 29, 2018**

Bible text explored: John 10:1–21

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. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He 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. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No 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.”

¹⁹There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” ²¹Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?” [ESV]

Review and application:

1. What (v. 10b) is the life goal Jesus was explaining in a way that would make sense to people living in an agricultural culture?
How would you characterize the “life to the full” that is the theme of this sermon series?
2. In what ways can sheep tell whether or not would-be influencers are real shepherds? (See vv. 1, 5, 10a.)
3. How (v. 9) does entering the sheepfold by the Door . . .
. . . provide safety for the sheep?
. . . supply their deepest needs?
4. Why is it a futile exercise to seek another door?
Is entering by the true Door a complicated process?

Qualities that make Jesus a uniquely Good Shepherd are described in verses 11, 14-16.

5. How is he personal? (See also v. 3.)
How is he a leader (as opposed to a driver)? (See also v. 4.)
How are we doing as willing, rather than reluctant, followers?
6. How is he missional?
7. How is he sacrificial, putting the welfare of the sheep ahead of his own?
(See also vv. 17-18, and compare with David, *1 Sam. 17:34-36a.*)
What made his sacrifice totally voluntary?
What gave him the authority to rise from death?