The Shepherd and His Sheep
Ray Stedman

I. Introduction. Text: John 10:1-21.

II. Jesus portrays Himself as the true shepherd and not the false one.

    A. This is in contrast to the false teachers of the Law.

    B. Marks of the true shepherd of the sheep.

        1. The shepherd comes through the door--the expected and proper way. The prophets had predicted the way Jesus would come.

        2. The gatekeeper--John the Baptist--opens the way for Him.

        3. The sheep would hear His voice.

    C. The shepherd calls out His sheep individually by name.

    D. The shepherd leads the sheep out of dark relationships that blind them. Christianity is an other-centered religion.

    E. The shepherd goes before them--in every challenge He has chosen for us Jesus has gone before us. (Psalm 23)

    F. The sheep trust His voice.

III. Jesus portrays Himself as the door of the sheep.

    A. The sheep could only cross over the shepherd to enter the sheep gate.

    B. By this, Jesus suggests that He was the door to understanding truth.

    C. The one entering the door finds salvation from a wasted life.

    D. He will find security, liberty and nourishment for the soul.

    E. Jesus came to give the abundant life--joy, peace, and love.

IV. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays His life down for His sheep.

    A. The primary characteristic of the Good Shepherd is that He loves unto death.

    B. The end of the Lord's laying down His life is to share His life with them.

V. The result of the Good Shepherd laying down His life was the break out of the gospel.

VI. Division results from commitment to the Shepherd.

A. No one can bring healing and touch to a life like Jesus can.

B. Consequently, He is dividing the world today.

Application questions:

1. How was the coming of Jesus foretold?
_____
_____

2. For what purposes does the Good Shepherd lay down His life?
_____
_____

3. What impact does the metaphor of the Good Shepherd have on you personally? How does this make you view Jesus differently had He not used this picture of Himself? Explain.
_____
_____