

# *A Follow Up Bible Study*

April 28, 2021

*Building on the Messages of the Lessons from the Fourth Sunday of Easter*

## **Warm Up**

While the image of the Good Shepherd from Psalm 23 and John 10 seem universally loved by those familiar with these passages, no doubt there are different aspects of these Scriptures that touch people and make them so dearly loved. What aspect(s) of the Good Shepherd touches you?

## **1. Sermon for April 25, 2021**

**Text: John 10:11-18**

**Theme: The Good Shepherd's sheep listen to his voice.**

**Share your** questions or comments regarding Sunday's sermon.

**Share your** questions or comments regarding Sunday's sermon **text**.

## **Gospel Lesson: John 10:11-18**

2. These words stand alone beautifully, but in their context they are part of a stunning set of claims and teaching of Jesus proclaimed 6 months before his arrest and execution - words and actions that led many to put their faith in him as the One from God while hardening the heart of his enemies, fueling their determination to kill Jesus. Let's take a flyover look at the 3D picture John paints.

*<sup>7</sup> After this, Jesus moved around in Galilee. He did not want to travel in Judea because the Jews were trying to find a way to kill him.*

*<sup>2</sup> Now the Jewish Festival of Shelters was near. <sup>3</sup> So his brothers said to him, "You should leave here and go to Judea so your disciples there can also see the works you are doing. <sup>4</sup> Indeed, no one acts in secret who wants to be known in public. If you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." <sup>5</sup> For even his own brothers did not believe in him.*

*<sup>6</sup> So Jesus told them, "The right time for me has not arrived yet, but any time is the right time for you. <sup>7</sup> The world cannot hate you, but it hates me, because I testify about it, that its works are evil. <sup>8</sup> You go up to the festival. I am not going up to this festival yet, because the right time for me has not yet arrived."*

*<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he stayed in Galilee. <sup>10</sup> However, after his brothers had gone up to the festival, then he also went up, not openly but in a private way.*

The 8 day Festival of Sukkot was in the Fall, 6 months before the Passover (of his Passion).

*<sup>11</sup> At the festival, the Jews kept looking for him. They asked, "Where is he?" <sup>12</sup> And there was widespread whispering about him in the crowds. Some were saying, "He's a good man." Others were saying, "No, he deceives the people." <sup>13</sup> Yet no one spoke openly about him for fear of the Jews.*

*<sup>14</sup> When the festival was already half over, Jesus went up to the temple courts and began to teach. <sup>15</sup> The Jews were amazed and asked, "How does this man know what is written without being instructed?"...*

*<sup>25</sup> Some of the people from Jerusalem were saying, "Isn't this the man they want to kill? <sup>26</sup> Yet, look! He's speaking openly, and they don't say a thing to him. Certainly the rulers have not concluded that he is the Christ, have they? <sup>27</sup> But we know where this man is from. When the Christ comes, no one will know where he is from."*

# *A Follow Up Bible Study*

April 28, 2021

*Building on the Messages of the Lessons from the Fourth Sunday of Easter*

<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus called out as he was teaching in the temple courts, “Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. Yet I have not come on my own, but the one who sent me is real. You do not know him. <sup>29</sup> I know him because I am from him, and he sent me.”

<sup>30</sup> So they tried to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his time had not yet come.

<sup>31</sup> But many in the crowd believed in him and asked, “When the Christ comes, he won’t do more miraculous signs than this man, will he?”

<sup>32</sup> The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering these things about him, so the chief priests and the Pharisees sent guards to arrest him. ...

<sup>37</sup> **On the last and most important day of the festival**, Jesus stood up and called out, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! <sup>38</sup> As the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from deep within the person who believes in me.” <sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were going to receive. For the Holy Spirit had not yet come, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

<sup>40</sup> After hearing his words, some of the people said, “This is truly the Prophet.” <sup>41</sup> Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Surely the Christ does not come from Galilee, does he? <sup>42</sup> Doesn’t the Scripture say that the Christ comes from David’s descendants and from the little town of Bethlehem where David lived?” <sup>43</sup> So the people were divided because of him. <sup>44</sup> Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

<sup>45</sup> Then the guards came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring him in?”

<sup>46</sup> The guards answered, “No one ever spoke the way this man does!”

<sup>47</sup> So the Pharisees answered them, “You have not been deceived too, have you?”

1. What is the chief characteristic of those who believed in Jesus and of those who didn’t?

**8** But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. <sup>2</sup> **Early in the morning, he came back into the temple courts.** And all the people kept coming to him. He sat down and taught them.

<sup>3</sup> Then the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery and had her stand in the center.

<sup>4</sup> “Teacher,” they said to him, “this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. <sup>5</sup> In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” <sup>6</sup> They asked this to test him, so that they might have evidence to accuse him.

2. Briefly tell how this turned out?

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus spoke to them again, he said, “**I am** the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

<sup>13</sup> So the Pharisees said to him, “You testify about yourself. Your testimony is not valid.”

...<sup>18</sup> I am one who testifies about myself, and the Father who sent me testifies about me.”

<sup>19</sup> Then they asked him, “Where is your Father?”

“You do not know me or my Father,” Jesus answered. “If you knew me, you would also know my Father.”

<sup>20</sup> **He spoke these words while teaching in the temple area near the offering box.** But no one arrested him, because his time had not arrived yet.

# *A Follow Up Bible Study*

April 28, 2021

*Building on the Messages of the Lessons from the Fourth Sunday of Easter*

3. Here, the day after the Festival, Jesus offers another **I AM** proclamation, a reference to the LORD Moses met at the burning bush. What 2 things does Jesus' Light make clear here?

<sup>23</sup> *"You are from below," he told them. "I am from above. You are of this world. I am not of this world.*

<sup>24</sup> *That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that **I am** the one, you will die in your sins."*

<sup>25</sup> *"Who are you?" they asked. ...*

<sup>28</sup> *So Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one, and that I do nothing on my own. But I speak exactly as the Father taught me. ...*

<sup>30</sup> *As he was saying these things, many believed in him.*

4. What is the characteristic of those who will die in their sins? Who are those who will **not** die in their sins?

<sup>31</sup> *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples.*

<sup>32</sup> *You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ...*

<sup>34</sup> *Jesus answered, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Everyone who keeps committing sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> But a slave does not remain in the family forever. A son does remain forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free. <sup>37</sup> I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because there is no place for my word in you. <sup>38</sup> I am telling you what I have seen at the side of the Father. As for you, you do what you have heard at the side of your father."*

5. Set free from what? Who are free?

6. What characteristic is common to the ones who are set free and remain free?

7. What characterizes of those who remain enslaved?

8. What thread are we seeing that prepares for the message we heard in the Good Shepherd chapter?

<sup>56</sup> *Your father Abraham was glad that he would see my day. He saw it and rejoiced."*

<sup>57</sup> *The Jews replied, "You aren't even fifty years old, and you have seen Abraham?"*

<sup>58</sup> *Jesus said to them, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Before Abraham was born, I am." <sup>59</sup> Then they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden and left the temple area.*

9. Why did they want to stone Jesus? Who did they understand he said he was?

# *A Follow Up Bible Study*

*April 28, 2021*

*Building on the Messages of the Lessons from the Fourth Sunday of Easter*

**9** *As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”*

*3 Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that God’s works might be revealed in connection with him. 4 I must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the World.”*

*6 After saying this, Jesus spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and spread the mud on the man’s eyes. 7 “Go,” Jesus told him, “wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.*

10. What was the man’s response to Jesus’ words?

*13 They brought this man who had been blind to the Pharisees. 14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 So the Pharisees also asked him how he received his sight.*

*“He put mud on my eyes,” the man told them. “I washed, and now I see.”*

*16 Then some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath.” Others were saying, “How can a sinful man work such miraculous signs?”*

*There was division among them, 17 so they said to the blind man again, “What do you say about him, because he opened your eyes?”*

*The man replied, “He is a prophet.”*

*18 The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and received his sight, until they summoned the parents of the man...*

11. What was obvious to the man born blind and to some of the Pharisees?

12. What blinded other Pharisees from seeing the obvious?

*35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out. When he found him, he asked, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”*

*36 “Who is he, sir,” the man replied, “that I may believe in him?”*

*37 Jesus answered, “You have seen him, and he is the very one who is speaking with you.”*

*38 Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” and he knelt down and worshipped him.*

*39 Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, in order that those who do not see will see, and those who do see will become blind.”*

*40 Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and asked, “We are not blind too, are we?”*

*41 Jesus told them, “If you were blind, you would not hold on to sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”*

13. What does Jesus mean when he says, “For judgment I came into this world, in order that those who do not see will see, and those who do see will become blind.”?

# *A Follow Up Bible Study*

April 28, 2021

*Building on the Messages of the Lessons from the Fourth Sunday of Easter*

14. Note: Every thing we've read since John 8:2 took place on the day after the Festival ended. How do the closing words of John 9 fit in the thread we have followed from the start of John 7?

Immediately after Jesus speaks those words to the people gathered around the man whom Jesus gave the gift of sight (including the Pharisees who still could not see and people who did believe in Jesus) ...

**10** *“Amen, Amen, I tell you: Anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the door, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The doorkeeper opens the door for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own sheep, he walks ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will never follow a stranger, but will run away from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this illustration in speaking to the people, but they did not understand what he was telling them.*

*<sup>7</sup> So Jesus said again, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: **I am** the door for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> **I am** the door. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.*

*<sup>10</sup> “A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

15. Jesus spoke about *a thief and a robber* and also of *a stranger*. Who are these people?
16. The people did not understand this *illustration*. His explanation heads in a different direction than I expect. You too? This is another **I AM** claim to be the Great I AM. What is Jesus teaching here?
17. What point did Jesus make so far about the relationship between sheep and their shepherd?

*<sup>11</sup> “**I am** the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired man, who is not a shepherd, does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> Because he works for money, he does not care about the sheep.*

*<sup>14</sup> “**I am** the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me <sup>15</sup> (just as the Father knows me and I know the Father). And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I also have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again. This is the commission I received from my Father.”*

18. Jesus reveals a number of things that demonstrate and justify his claim to be **the Good Shepherd**. List them.

# *A Follow Up Bible Study*

*April 28, 2021*

*Building on the Messages of the Lessons from the Fourth Sunday of Easter*

19. As noted in the sermon, what is the distinguishing character of the sheep in Jesus' flock?
20. What warning does all of John 7-10 offer us if we are tempted to take listening to Jesus lightly?

Two months later Jesus returns to the Temple for Hanukkah and returns to the sheep image....

*<sup>22</sup> Then the Festival of Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple area in Solomon's Colonnade.*

*<sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around Jesus, asking, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."*

*<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered them, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I am doing in my Father's name testify about me. <sup>26</sup> But you do not believe, because you are not my sheep, as I said to you. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.*

21. What themes from John 7-10 reappears here?
22. Some claim v. 28 teaches *once saved, always saved*. What does it actually teach?

## **First Lesson: Acts 4:23-33**

*<sup>23</sup> After Peter and John were released, they went to their own friends and reported everything the high priests and the elders had said. <sup>24</sup> When they heard this, with one mind they raised their voices to God and said, "Master, you are the God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. <sup>25</sup> By the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David, your servant, you said:*

*Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?*

*<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth take their stand,  
and the rulers are gathered together  
against the Lord  
and against his Anointed One.*

*<sup>27</sup> "For certainly, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. <sup>28</sup> They did whatever your hand and your plan had decided beforehand should happen.*

*<sup>29</sup> "Now Lord, look at their threats and give to your servants the ability to keep on speaking your word with all boldness <sup>30</sup> as you stretch out your hand to heal and as signs and wonders take place through the name of your holy servant Jesus."*

*<sup>31</sup> After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. Also, everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the word of God with boldness.*

# *A Follow Up Bible Study*

April 28, 2021

*Building on the Messages of the Lessons from the Fourth Sunday of Easter*

*<sup>32</sup> The whole group of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common. <sup>33</sup> The apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great power, and abundant grace was on all of them.*

21. Where is the Good Shepherd in this text?
22. How do the disciples show themselves to be the sheep of the Good Shepherd?
23. Why are the leaders hostile toward the Good Shepherd?
24. Here is a great *go to* passage to help people know what *Divine Inspiration* means. <sup>25</sup> *By the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David, your servant, you said: ...* Explain.

## **Second Lesson: 1 John 3:1-2**

***3** See the kind of love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! The world does not know us, because it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, we are children of God now, but what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he is revealed we will be like him, and we will see him as he really is.*

25. Here John uses a different image to speak of our relationship with God. What is it and what are the similarities with the Shepherd/sheep image?
26. How does John fill us with anticipation in these words, filling in and fanning our hopes?