



The Good Shepherd  
And a Bunch of  
Happy Sheep

# MESSAGE SUMMARY

This is one of the most beloved passages to be found anywhere in Scripture. But it's not a stand-alone passage: The healing of the blind man in chapter 9 was more than a miracle. It was part of the process of Jesus forming His flock. The leadership had cast the healed man out of the synagogue. Jesus found him, accepted him, saved him, and placed him in His own fold.

## DETAILED NOTES

Sheep are docile; they follow one another. They are not known for their strength. The Bible uses sheep as an analogy for human beings.

Thousands of years ago, everyone understood the analogy; they were a part of the culture.

## DETAILED NOTES

Job owned 14,000 sheep; Solomon sacrificed 120,000 on one occasion; Psalm 100:3 refers to God's children as the sheep of His pasture.

Isaiah 53:6 says "All we like sheep have gone astray;" alluding to the fact that sheep are prone to wander.

## DETAILED NOTES

Phillip Keller writes "Sheep do not 'just take care of themselves' as some might suppose.

They require, more than any other class of livestock, endless attention and meticulous care.

It is no accident that God has chosen to call us sheep. The behavior of sheep and human beings is similar in many ways

## DETAILED NOTES

Our mass mind (or mob instincts), our fears and timidity, our stubbornness and stupidity, our perverse habits are all parallels of profound importance." The quality of life for the sheep depends on the shepherd who takes care of it.

# DETAILED NOTES

This text is divided into two sections:

the village scene (vv. 1-6)

and the countryside scene (vv. 7-10).

## I. The Shepherd Gathers His Flock

This sheepfold does not represent heaven  
(thieves and robbers climbing in),  
not salvation or the church (flock led out).



## I. The Shepherd Gathers His Flock

The sheepfold represents Judaism which kept them safe until the Messiah came. (See John 10:16—"And other sheep I have which are not of this fold;" (Gentiles).

Jesus is the Good Shepherd (v. 11).

# I. The Shepherd Gathers His Flock

He Comes the Right Way (vv. 1-3a)

Not a thief who climbs over the locked guarded gate (Pharisees)

True prophets prophesy against the false prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel)

–Jeremiah 23:1-2; Ezekiel 34:1-2

# I. The Shepherd Gathers His Flock

Jesus doesn't sneak in

Came from Heaven

Fulfills over 300 prophecies—Galatians 4:4

# I. The Shepherd Gathers His Flock

He Calls the Right Way (v. 3b)

Call sheep with a distinct pitch, tone and inflection the sheep understand

Right speech, words, voice

# I. The Shepherd Gathers His Flock

He Conducts the Right Way (vv. 3c-6)

He leads them out

Western style - dogs drive sheep

Eastern style - shepherd leads—Psalm 23:2

## I. The Shepherd Gathers His Flock

Jesus explain what happened to the man born blind now healed; he was kicked out of Judaism

Judaism had fulfilled its function of keeping God's people safe and separate from the world

Jesus was doing a new work—Matthew 9:17

Learn to trust the leading of our shepherd

## II. The Shepherd Guides His Flock

He is the Door to Salvation (vv. 7-9)

One door; narrow, exclusiveness of Christ

Came to be the Savior of mankind

## II. The Shepherd Guides His Flock

He is the Door to Provision (v. 9b)

In and out speaks of contentment and provision

In the sheepfold at night for safety



## II. The Shepherd Guides His Flock

Out in the morning for pasture

Jesus nourishes us

Secret to happy sheep: safety proportional to  
proximity

## II. The Shepherd Guides His Flock

He is the Door to Satisfaction (vv. 9c-10)

Thief comes to steal, kill and destroy

Jesus gives us abundant life

Our victory is based on the love of the Shepherd  
who laid His life down for the sheep