

MAIN POINT: Jesus watches over his people like a shepherd does his flock. He brings us into green pastures—abundant life. He lays down his life and destroys the destroying things.

10:1–10 Jesus says there are spiritual leaders whom he has not called and appointed as gates for the people. They are _____ and _____ because they sneak over the wall rather than entering like disciples would, through Him, the _____. V5 The sheep won't _____ them but _____ from them because they don't recognize their _____. V3 Whereas the sheep _____ the good shepherd's voice and _____ to him. He knows each sheep by _____. He walks _____ of them to show them the way and to protect them from their enemies. The _____ sheep listen only to Jesus and come to Him and are _____. He leads them to _____ pastures—that is life in all its _____. You can tell who the thieves are by the condition of the sheep. They have been stolen from. They are _____ and _____.

THE GATE: "I assure you, I am the gate for the sheep." V6 Jesus uses stories and pictures to make it as easy as possible to understand spiritual truth. In John he uses picture language to talk about himself. In this Scripture he draws pictures of shepherd country. The first picture he draws is of an enclosure where sheep are kept at night while traveling through the wild country to find grass. The sheepfold was made of rocks and branches, scrubs and thorn bushes, whatever the shepherd could cobble to make a safe place from predators—wolves, bears, lions. He compares himself to the GATE of the sheepfold. Any predator that wants to get at his sheep will have to climb over his dead body. Also no other person has access to the sheep except him. Jesus expresses being the gate, saying, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." John 14:6 The sheepfold is ultimately the Father's house—heaven. The gate is also the faithful church to whom Jesus has given the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew 16:18-19

THE SHEEP are God's people. The supreme form of greed is not to possess money, land, and property... it is to own people. Every single person of this earth belongs to God. He is their father and they are his children. Slaves do not belong to their owners. Children do not belong to their parents. Congregations do not belong to their pastors. Psalm 100

SHEPHERDS - THIEVES - HIRED HANDS (Pastoral leaders): **The shepherd's** occupation is to tend sheep, goats, etc....a flock or herd of livestock. Pastor is the Latin form of the word. **The hired hand** is a pastoral person who is only in the business for money and position. **Thieves** are false leaders who come to profit and exalt themselves at the expense of the sheep. The "thief of thieves" is considered to be the devil. It is the devil who is behind all lesser demons and people who steal, kill, and destroy people. • He stole first from the Father. He

stole us. He kidnapped us, the Father's precious children, through lies and deceit. Ezekiel 34 is the background for this teaching. The pastors of Israel were so unfaithful that the Father sent Jesus to be their true shepherd and savior.

FULLNESS - ABUNDANCE: The Greek word is *perissos*, meaning superabundance, overflowing, more than enough. The general will of God is that we have a life of blessing and prosperity. His favor and blessing opens our heart to love Him and have faith toward Him. The secret of receiving the Father's abundance is a "prospering soul." "May you be in health and prosper even as your soul prospers." 2 John 3

10:11–16 Jesus, the Good Shepherd: Jesus says of Himself, "I _____ the good _____." You can identify the good shepherd because he lays down his _____ for the sheep. A hired _____ runs when he sees a _____ coming. He lets the wolf _____ and _____ the flock. The _____ hand doesn't care about the sheep. He cares for them for the money. It's a job for him, not a calling. • Whereas, there is a caring relationship between the shepherd and the true _____. He _____ them and they _____ him. To _____ (to have a deep friendship or relationship) Jesus is also known as the _____. The Master says that there are _____ sheep (the Gentiles ---the non- Jews) that He feels compelled to bring into His _____. They will be true sheep like the first disciples because they will pick out his _____ among the noise of this world and _____ and come. The result then will be _____ flock and one _____. There will be people from every nation, tribe, and language in the heavenly sheepfold. In fact, Jesus says he will not come again until that happens. "And the good news will be preached throughout the whole world, so all nations will hear it; and then, finally, the end will come." Matthew 24:14

10:17–18 The special LAMB from the flock.: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29) "The _____ loves me because I _____ down my life that I may have it back again. _____ can take my life from me. I lay down my life _____. For I have the _____ to lay it down when I want to and also the _____ to take it again. For my Father has given me this _____."

LAY DOWN LIFE: "Without the shedding of life's blood, there is no forgiveness of sins... Christ has entered into that great, perfect sanctuary in heaven, not made by human hands and not part of this created world. Once for all time he took blood into that Most Holy Place but not the blood of goats and calves. He took his own blood, and with it he secured our salvation forever....For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins." Hebrews 9:22; 11-12; 14

TAKE - POWER Jesus was never a victim. He chose to come. He chose to allow the enemies of God to crucify Him. When they came to capture him, one of the disciples took a sword and cut

off the ear of the high priest's servant. Jesus said, "Put away the sword...Don't you realize I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly. But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled..." Matthew 26:51-54 • Jesus had power over death. He commanded Lazarus to come out. He took the little girl by the hand and told her to arise from death. He came alive in his grave--an earthquake blew it open and he walked out. "I have been given complete authority in heaven and in earth." Matthew 28:18

10:19-41 Opinions: People were divided in their _____ about Jesus. Some said he has a _____ or he's _____. Others said, "Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?" As he was walking in the Temple, the Jewish leaders asked him to tell them plainly if he was the _____. Jesus replied that he had plainly told them but they choose not to _____, which proved they were not part of his _____. They didn't recognize his _____ and _____. Then he makes his flock a wonderful promise. "I give my sheep eternal life, and they will _____ perish. No one will _____ them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is _____ powerful than anyone else. So _____ can take them from me, the Father and I are one." The reaction of the pastors of Israel was to pick up _____ to kill him. They tell him it is because he was committing _____, saying he was God. But it's not blasphemy if Jesus is God. Jesus says, "Why do you call it blasphemy when the Holy One who was sent into the world by the Father says, 'I am the Son of God'?" V41 Many _____ and many _____ in Him."

What Does This Scripture Say To You? _____