

## ***They Know His Voice***

Ezekiel 34:11-16; John 10:1-18

**1. Jesus describes the religious leaders as thieves and robbers.**

**2. Jesus describes Himself as the gate and as the Good Shepherd.**

A. The image of the gate emphasizes that Jesus sees Himself as the sole means of salvation.

*"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved."*  
10:9

*"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* John 14:6

B. The image of the shepherd emphasizes that Jesus is the one who nurtures and cares for God's people

*"The Lord is my shepherd..."* Psalm 23

In John 10, Jesus presents himself as the fulfillment of Ezekiel 34.

Ezekiel 34, traditionally read at Hanukkah, is a prophesy of the ministry of the Good Shepherd

God searches for the sheep. Ezekiel 34:11

God rescues the sheep. Ezekiel 34:12

God provides for the sheep. Ezekiel 34:13-15

God tends to the weak and injured. Ezekiel 34:16

**3. We, as believers, are the sheep**

**4. There exists a very real and intimate relationship between the Shepherd and the sheep.**

A. The shepherd is the initiator of this relationship.

The Shepherd speaks to the sheep by name. 10:3.

The Shepherd leads the sheep. 10:4.

The Shepherd protects the sheep 10: 9.

The Shepherd provides for the sheep. 10:9.

Finally, the image that captures the depth of His love, the Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 10:15.

B. The sheep are the beneficiaries of this relationship.

## **2 IMPORTANT QUESTIONS**

**1. Do I really believe that it is possible to hear God speak?**

A. We see examples the Old Testament.

*"The Lord had said to Abram."* Genesis 12:1

*"God called to (Moses) from within the bush."* Exodus 3:4.

*"This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you.'" Jeremiah 30:1-2.*

B. We see examples in the New Testament.

*“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’” Acts 13:2*

*“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” John 14:26*

**The Bible isn’t a book of exceptions, it is a book of examples.**

**2. Do I really want to hear God speak?**

A. The sheep listen to His voice. (10:3).

B. The sheep follow Him. (10:4).

**3. Am I already obeying what He has already revealed?**

A. The Bible already contains most of what God will ever speak to you.

B. Recognize that God’s will never contradicts what He has already revealed in His Word.

**Conclusion: The first step to learning how to hear God’s voice is to position yourself in a submissive posture toward God’s Word.**