



**SERIES: November – December – Walking with Jesus**

**SPEAKER: JACOB WIRKA**

**Saturday, 11/13/21**

**Scripture: JOHN 10:25-30**

**TITLE: The Shepherd and His Sheep**

Have you ever gotten to work with livestock before? Whether it is sheep, cows, chickens, livestock are not easy to work with! Growing up, my cousins had a lot of different animals on their farm, and I got to help them from time to time. In particular, they had a ton of sheep. And they are so needy! My cousins had had to do absolutely everything for them; they had to guide them, provide for their every need, and protect them.

But why am I talking so much about sheep? Because in Matthew 10, Jesus talks a lot about how He is a good shepherd. He keeps His sheep. In this analogy, Jesus' sheep are the ones who follow Him. I think this helps us understand how Jesus relates to us. Today I want us to focus on John 10:25- 30 (ESV).

To set the stage for this passage, it's important to note that Jesus has been confronted by a group of men who asked Him to plainly say whether or not He is the promised Messiah. This is His response:

Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

To this point in the Gospel of John, Jesus has already claimed to be the Messiah several different times. Even more important than His words, His actions demonstrate that He is, in fact, the son of God. To this point in Jesus' ministry, He's already performed many miracles, including changing the water to wine, healing the lame and the blind, feeding the 5,000, and walking on water. What Jesus is saying in this passage is, "if you've already heard the things I've taught and seen that the miraculous works that I've done and you still don't believe, you're not going to." It's almost as if He's saying, "what else could I possibly do to show you who I am?"

So why is it that they don't believe? Jesus says clearly in verse 25 that it's because they are not "among my sheep." His sheep are the ones who believe and trust in Jesus as Lord. Based on this passage, those who believe are the ones who hear God's voice, have a relationship with Him, and actively follow Him. If you are trusting in Jesus as Savior, then you should have confidence because eternal life is not something that can be taken from you, Jesus is the one looking after

you, and He will not let you go, no matter what! There is no one greater than God! No one can take from Him what is His.

A natural question to ask here is how do we know if we are God's? As Jesus said, His sheep are given to Him by the Father. This brings up an even more difficult question about what theologians call predestination. Has God predetermined who will be saved and who won't? There are a couple of different ways people look at this. Some say God has already seen the future and knows who will trust in Him; then others would say it is God who has given faith to those who would believe before time began.

Regardless of where you stand on those positions, I believe the key question is, do you believe? Jesus' sheep are the ones who believed in Him. They are the ones who hear His voice. They are the ones who follow Him. So, do you hear Jesus' voice calling you? Do you know His words? Are you trusting in Him alone to be your Shepherd? If you trust in Jesus, then hold on to this truth, that He will never let you go! He's the Good Shepherd, and He will provide for your every spiritual need and one day bring you home to Him!