



**SERIES: John Believe**  
**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**  
**Friday, February 10, 2023**  
**Scripture: John 10:1-6**  
**TITLE: God Knows You By Name**

It's amazing how a parent can hear a call out and know that it is their kid. I mean, that's true even in a crowd at Disney World. And it's true when a parent calls out for their kid. The kid immediately knows their voice. What parents and children experience is what we should experience as Jesus' sheep. We should know his voice and listen to his call.

Listen to what Jesus said about this in John 10:1-6.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

In case you missed the last few days, we're picking up the story of Jesus healing the blind beggar. The Pharisees are beyond mad at Jesus. They care more about being religious leaders than the incredible healing of this man. He just told the Pharisees that they were spiritually blind and trapped in their sins.

And here, Jesus transitions with a familiar illustration of sheep. Each village in ancient Israel had a fold where sheep slept at night. The shepherd would care for the sheep. He knew the sheep. And at the end of the day, the gatekeeper would look over each sheep to ensure they were theirs and in good shape. There was only one legitimate way into the fold: through the gate and gatekeeper. The thieves would have to sneak in and crawl over the fence.

Notice that Jesus says this shepherd knows each sheep by name. He goes out before them to make sure it is safe. There were lions and bears, thieves and robbers, ditches and traps. The shepherd was there to protect them from unnecessary harm.

And yes, the sheep knew the voice of their shepherd. But the influence of the stranger would cause them to run. But then, in verse 6, it says, "This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them." Why? What does that mean? It ties back to the religious leaders in chapter 9. They are blind. They don't understand. They don't listen to Jesus. They don't understand. They are spiritually blind.

Today there are false teachers and people who want to draw you away from the Good Shepherd. They want to lead you into harm's way. Don't let them. The Good Shepherd knows you. He knows you by name. It's in His presence we find care, provision, and protection. It's by Him we get to heaven. It's through Him we have peace with God.

So today, keep your ears open. Listen for and to the voice of Jesus. If you're unsure if it's him, take what you hear and filter it through the Bible. The Good Shepherd wants you to know Him, hear Him, and follow Him. There is no place safer, so that is where we should be.