We Need A Shepherd- John 10

Descriptions of sheep
- Not very intelligent (more ignorant than even a cow)
- More fearful of new situations-
  - If you have to change to a new pasture they are upset for 3 days
  - Some shepherds say if they change the color of the feed bucket it will bother them
- They are suspicious of anyone but their master
- They are very curious- They are their own worst enemy
- Very sensitive to pressure and stress
- Very submissive
- Once vanquished they give up
- Follow but do not like to be pushed. (cattle are accustomed to being pushed) Tony said he got behind them and tried to push them. They would run behind him and stand behind them. So he started going where he wanted them and where he led they followed.
- Sensitive to rain snow and lightening.

Context Chapter 9- Identity and Vision.

He is not using sight this time He is using hearing

V1-6- The image Jesus is using is the most well understood image in Hebrew culture…He is describing the morning routine that happens every morning. They would move them to a sheepfold in the night and morning. They would go to the gatekeeper and open the gate and the sheep would be going in different directions making their voice heard. The sheep would follow naturally the voice of the shepherd.

Only a thief would climb the wall of the sheepfold and not go through the door.

V6- They did not understand.

V7-18

Jesus begins to define the terms of the illustration.

Jesus is more than one image in the illustration- (Ex Heb 7-9)
- V7- I am the door of the sheep. (v9)
- V11- I am the good shepherd. (v14)

Jesus also defines thieves and robbers as all who came before me who tried to draw people always.
- (Acts 5:34)

Sheepfold- There was almost always only one exit to the sheepfold the size of a sheep. They would pass under the rod. He would pull the club out and lay it on top of the gap. He was counting them and making sure those were his sheep. Isaiah used this imagery to describe someone in a covenant relationship with God. Once they were settled the shepherd would sleep in the gap. Jesus was the only point of access and escape and protection. Over the body of the shepherd is the only way.

V10- Different motivations
- The robber came to kill and steal. Rob people of their hope
- Jesus says I came to give life and to have it more abundantly.
- Parents set curfews for a reason. It to us is a inconvenience. I want you to have a long meaningful and abundant life. Don't let a imposter rob you.

V11-12 The shepherd lays his life down. (v15,18) The heirling does not. Would you fight a wolf for a days wage with a rod. They get this but Jesus says the flock belongs to me and I will fight the wolf. Protects us from others and yourself.

V18- On my own accord- Jesus went to the cross by choice voluntarily.

V19-21- There was a division. There were a lot of hurdles to overcome before they believed. Even though they said he didn't have a demon they did not He was the Christ.
  - Application- People have hurdles…we have hurdles

V22-30
  - Jesus said I told you but you do not hear my voice. My works bear witness of me. (25)

V31- The are ready to stone Him for blasphemy. Many things can stand in the way of an individual's vision to see the Christ. (False religion, blasphemy, background religious or cultural.
  - Jesus declares He is the Anointed one and we must give our heart to Him.

Conclusion- Isaiah 40

V9- Behold OUR GOD
V10-11- Strong hand, ruling arm, brings reward, working, feeding, gathering the lambs, carry them and gently lead them

Hebrew shepherds (Jacob sends Joseph to Dothan) would find weaker lambs, pull it around them loosely and bind it with a stash. When they found a weak lamb, they would put it inside the pocket of that cloak. The lambs head hanging out. Sometimes he would fill that cloak up. When filled He would carry them in his arms. The mothers were walking right behind him because he was carrying their lamb. We cannot miss the gentleness of this imagery. It is far more intimate and tender than that. When we can't He carries us on His bosom.