



Sunday, July 12, 2009: Hearing the Master's Voice

Scripture: Ezekiel 34:1-24; John 10

Speaker: Scott Masson

Sermon Notes:

1. By our inherited sinful nature, we are blind and deaf; we need to be born again in order for us to hear the voice of the shepherd.
2. Seeing and hearing rightly is necessary for us to obey God.
3. By the Word we are led to the living Word, the Lord Jesus
4. The grace of Christ is demonstrated in His taking our sins on the cross.
5. Power is the capacity to achieve a purpose. God's purpose is to win a covenant people for Himself.
6. When Christ seemed powerless on the cross, His life was most powerful in accomplishing God's purpose.
7. Romans 3:9,10. There is none righteous. We're bound by sin, until we're freed to follow Christ.
8. John 10:1-21. Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
9. The Jews abstracted the Law of God from the person of Christ who is the ultimate revelation of God's Word.
10. Sheep are anxious, hungry, helpless, needy. The sheer presence of the shepherd gives them confidence to eat.
11. The heart of this passage is about limited atonement.
12. We don't know why Jesus saves anyone. We believers know we've heard His voice, but we're just as undeserving as those who are not saved.
13. When people ask about the eternal fate of those who have never heard, they usually are avoiding their own response to the gospel.
14. John 10:22-42. Collaboration of Father and Son.
15. The Jews want to know if Jesus is the Messiah, who is in their minds a military liberator.
16. At Passover the Good Shepherd became the Lamb of God.
17. John 10:34. Jesus quotes Psalm 82:6. Jesus is working with the Father for the eternal security of the sheep; we need to listen to Him.

Application Questions:

1. Jesus is both the shepherd and the door. But who is the 'gatekeeper' who lets Him in the sheepfold in verse 3?
2. What is the significance of the fact that, in v.4, the shepherd 'goes before' the sheep?
3. What is the relationship between following the shepherd's voice and being fed?
4. We live in an uncertain world. If sheep won't eat when they feel threatened, how does abiding in the word of God, the good shepherd, serve to make us feel safe as well as feeding us?
5. If those who insist that the way to come to God is by following the law are 'thieves and robbers', i.e. the Pharisees, then who does the 'hired hand' who won't fight the wolf represent?
6. Jesus, the Word of God, is both Torah incarnate and the man who keeps the Torah perfectly. If we are the beneficiaries of His salvation and His righteousness by trusting in His atoning death, then are we not also the beneficiaries of His obedience?
7. Read Philippians 2:12-13. Is Paul's emphasis in this passage on our need to work out our salvation, and thus to fear whether we are one of God's sheep, or to point out the awesome significance of the fact that because we are God's sheep, the Holy Spirit, who is God, IS at work in us?
8. 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.' (Leviticus 19:2) 'Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord...' (Hebrews 12:14). How are we to pursue what has been given to us in Jesus Christ without lapsing into legalism, and all of the fears that come with it?