

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

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In the final judgment, Jesus revealed that there will be a separation of the sheep from the goats (Matt. 25:31-46). The imagery of the Shepherd and sheep is used to describe the relationship between Jesus and His followers. The goats do not belong to the Lord. In John 10:16, Jesus, speaking of His sheep said, “they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.”

Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). Those who obey His commandments and follow His teaching are His sheep. There are many voices in the world. They compete with the voice of Jesus. They often contradict the voice of Jesus. They provide clutter and interfere with the voice of Jesus. Each of these things makes it more difficult to listen only to Jesus.

Jesus’ voice is clear. The word *clear* means precise and truthful (John 17:17). The word *clear* means direct, pointed, piercing and penetrating (Heb. 4:12).

Jesus’ voice is compelling. He calls us to Himself (Matt. 22:28-30). “Come unto me...” invites to the beauty and wonder of fellowship with the divine. Jesus has something to offer that no one else can match. He offers salvation, joy and peace. He offers guidance and direction. “Come learn of me...” invites us to drink deeply from spiritual wells that refresh the soul.

Jesus’ voice is consoling. “I will give you rest...” Are you attempting to live your life without God? It can be better! While Jesus bids us to take up His yoke, He promises rest. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. The greater yoke of sin will destroy us. He gives us rest. True peace—the tranquility of soul that comes by being one with God—is found only in Christ.

Will you be among the sheep or the goats?