

Introduction: Who do you believe has your best interest at heart?

Context:

John 9

- Jesus healed a man born blind on the Sabbath.
- The Pharisees kicked the healed man and his family out of the synagogue because he followed Jesus

Jesus' declaration in revealing who He is:

¹ "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what He was telling them.

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ **I am the gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved.** They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:1-10

Four characters from John 10:**The Thief:**

The thief doesn't come to bring _____ but _____.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;

John 10:10a

- Thief – subtlety, trickery
- Robber – violence, plundering

The Shepherd:

The Shepherd's purpose is for the _____ of His flock.

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:10b

- Life to the full – exceeding abundantly above, an extra-ordinary amount, beyond measure

The Sheep:

The sheep know the _____ of their shepherd and _____ Him.

⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

John 10:4-5

- Who is _____ your life?
- Do you know the _____ of Jesus?
- Are you running _____ of Jesus?

The Gate:

The Gate provides access to _____ and protects against _____.

I am the gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

John 10:9

Jesus is the entrance into the life that is truly life, bringing freedom and security.

Discussion Questions:

1. Share about a time when you believed someone had your best interest at heart, but it turned out they didn't. How did this experience affect you?
2. What did you learn from each of the four characters of John 10? How will it impact your life going forward?
3. Like the sheep listening to the shepherd, what does it mean to *hear and know* God's voice? How can you practice better listening today?
4. As you look at your life, who do you think is *truly* leading it? If it's not Jesus – The Good Shepherd – what steps can you take to let Him take control of your life?