

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro

I. Shepherd and Sheep Image in the Old Testament

Psalm 23 (God's guidance, protection, and provision)

Jeremiah 23:1-6 (The shepherds' responsibility and God's promise for the new shepherd)

Ezekiel 34:1-5, 9-15, and 31 (God will become the shepherd for the people)

Zechariah 10:2-12 (God's saving and recovering war for the wandering sheep)

Question. Do you see any similarity or difference on the image of a shepherd between those Old Testament passages and John chapter 10?

II. Festival of Dedication (Another name for Hanukkah)

The festival instituted to commemorate the purging of the temple and the rebuilding of the altar after Judas Maccabbeus had driven out the Syrians, B.C. 164 (1 Maccabees 4:52-59). It commenced on the 25th of Chisleu (early in December) the anniversary of the pollution of the temple by Antiochus Epiphanes, B.C. 167. Like the great Mosaic feasts, it lasted eight days, but it did not require attendance at Jerusalem. It was an occasion of much festivity, and was celebrated in nearly the same manner as the feast of tabernacles (September or October), with the carrying of branches of trees and with much singing. In the temple at Jerusalem the "Hallel" was sung every day of the feast. – Easton's Bible Dictionary

As well as celebrating the rededication of the temple, Jews also used the Feast of Dedication to reflect on the consequences of bad leadership. One of the passages that was commonly read and discussed was Ezekiel 34, which denounces and describes Israel's past poor leaders as bad shepherds, men who fulfilled their own desires rather than serve their sheep. – livehope.org

3. Let Us Read John Ch. 10

4. Discussion

- a. We often see Jesus saying, “Truly, truly I tell you.” In what situation do you think Jesus used it? Or in what situation the author puts it in the beginning of Jesus’ speech?
- b. Who would be the thieves and bandits in verses 1-5?
- c. Do you find any characteristics of the shepherd in verse 1-5?
- d. Jesus calls himself as the gate (v. 7). How do you think the people would understand Jesus as the gate, regarding Genesis 28:17, Psalm 78:23, Matthew 7:7 and 13-14?
- e. How do you understand “**all** who came before me” in verse 8?
- f. Who do you think would be the “hired hand”?
- g. Why do you think the Jews couldn’t believe Jesus as the Messiah (7:42)?
- h. How shall we understand verse 30?
- i. What would be considered as blasphemy these days?
- j. How do you understand Psalm 82:1?

5. Closing Prayer