

Lesson I.

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

April 2, 1905

John 10 : 7-18. Study vs. 1-18—Memory Verses, 17, 18.

Golden Text—I am the good shepherd : the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.—
John 10 : 11.



7 Then said Je'sus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers : but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door : by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy : I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

11 I am the good shepherd : the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth : and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

15 As the Father knoweth me, even so

know I the Father : and I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold : them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice ; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The Pharisees had been very harsh and cruel to the blind man whose eyes Jesus had opened. Because he was becoming a follower of Jesus, they had forbidden him ever again to enter the synagogue. Jesus now speaks some plain words to these men. He calls to their minds how the shepherds do with their flocks. When night comes, they gather the flock together and lead them into the fold, which was a place something like a large open stable, around which was a high stone fence to keep out wild animals and robbers.

In the morning the shepherd comes again to the door of the fold, and as soon as the sheep hear their master's voice, they at once spring up and follow wherever he may lead them. All day long a good shepherd would keep watch over his sheep, often risking his own life to save them.

Jesus now says, looking at His disciples

and at the Pharisees, "I am the Good Shepherd, and know My sheep, and they follow Me." Speaking of the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus called them false shepherds, who, like hired keepers, cared nothing for the sheep, but would desert them at the first sign of danger. "These men," said the Master, "are to the people no better than thieves or robbers, whose business it is to steal and to kill and to destroy, but the true sheep will not hear them—their voices sound strange to them."

"I am the Good Shepherd," said the Saviour, "because My chief care is for My sheep. As a faithful earthly shepherd seeks out good pastures for his flock, so will I lead My people where they can find all that is best for them. As he, their master, is willing to risk his own life to save them from danger, so will I, the Good Shepherd, give up My life for My sheep."

Many of Jesus' followers did not at first

Miss Robinson
Pharisees