

Lesson I.

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

April 5, 1808

John 10 : 1-11. *Commit to memory v. 9. Study John 10 : 1-18.

GOLDEN TEXT—The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.—John 10 : 11.

1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the ¹sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 To him the porter openeth ; and the sheep hear his voice : and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

4 ² And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him : for they know his voice.

5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him : for they know not the voice of strangers.

6 Thisparable spake Je'sus unto them : but they

Revised Version—¹ fold of the sheep ; ² When he hath put forth all his own, he goeth ; ³ Jesus therefore said ; ⁴ Omit ever ; ⁵ go out, and shall find ; ⁶ that he may steal and kill and destroy ; ⁷ I came ; ⁸ may ; ⁹ and may have it abundantly ; ¹⁰ layeth down.

understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

7 ³ Then said Je'sus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 All that ⁴ 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 ⁵ out, and find pasture.

10 The thief cometh not, but ⁶ for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy : I ⁷ am come that they ⁸ might have life, ⁹ and that they might have it more abundantly.

11 I am the good shepherd : the good shepherd ¹⁰ giveth his life for the sheep.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Door, 1-9.

II. The Good Shepherd, 10, 11.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Jesus, the Good Shepherd, John 10 : 1-18.

T.—Safety of the sheep, John 10 : 19-30. W.—

False shepherds, Ezek. 34 : 1-10. Th.—Seeking

and feeding, Ezek. 34 : 11-19. F.—The mighty

Shepherd, Ezek. 34 : 23-31. S.—Finding the wanderer, Matt. 18 : 7-14. S.—“ My Shepherd ” Ps. 23.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 88. *What are the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption?* A. The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption, are his ordinances, especially

the word, sacraments, and prayer ; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

The Question on Missions—(Second Quarter, MISSIONS IN LABRADOR.)—1. Where is Labrador, and what is the character of the country ? Labrador is a large peninsula on the Atlantic coast of North America. Part of it belongs to Canada, and part to Newfoundland. The interior of the country is thickly wooded, while the coast is very rocky and barren.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 116 (Supplemental Lesson); 19 ; 585 ; 14 (Ps. Sel.); 522 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 134.

Special Scripture Reading—Isa. 40 : 3-11. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.) It is expected that each scholar will have his or her Bible, and so be prepared to take part in this reading, which may form part of the opening exercises of the School.

EXPOSITION

By Rev. Professor H. A. A. Kennedy, D.Sc., Toronto

Time and Place—Shortly after the Feast of Tabernacles, A.D. 29; Jerusalem.

Connecting Links—To-day's Lesson follows immediately on Lesson XI., First Quarter, March 15, John 9 : 1-12, Jesus Healing the Man Born Blind.

I. The Door, 1-9.

Vs. 1, 2. *Verily, verily.* A formula used to introduce some deep and important truth. *I say unto you.* Jesus addresses His words specially to the Pharisees. *The sheepfold.* This was an enclosure surrounded by a stone wall, in which several flocks of sheep might be housed for the night. The flocks were carefully counted as they passed in and out, and were in charge of “ the porter ” (v. 3) or doorkeeper. They were thus protected against robbers and wild animals. In this illustration, the sheepfold is the kingdom of God. It was a favorite Old Testament image (compare Ps. 80 : 1; Jer. 3 : 15; Ezek. 34 : 23).

The door represents God's own will as to entrance into His kingdom. That will has been fully revealed in Jesus Christ. The Pharisees, in refusing to acknowledge Christ, were dealing falsely with the will of God, and ignoring it. Hence they were a real danger to the flock. *Thief . . robber* ; plunderers, seeking only how they may make gain for themselves out of the sheep. *The shepherd.* A better translation is “ a shepherd ”. Jesus is still speaking generally. No genuine shepherd would ever dream of climbing the wall.

Vs. 3-5. *To him the porter openeth* ; recognizing the genuine shepherd and admitting him to the fold. The separate details in any of Jesus' parables must never be pressed, as if each must have some spiritual meaning ; but it is probably reasonable to suppose that by the doorkeeper is signified the recognition of every true servant of God by the

* The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.