

*He Loved Me...*

*He Loves Me Lots*

*The Gospel of John*

Text

John 10:1-21

Topic

Jesus emphasizes that every believer can hear His voice above all others just like a sheep knows the voice of its shepherd

Title

***"May His Voice Be With You"***

---

### **Do you hear voices?**

I don't mean the kind of voices that David Berkowitz heard. The infamous "Son of Sam" initially claimed that he'd been told to commit his murders by a demon manifested in his neighbor's dog, Harvey.

Speaking of serial killers, actor Anthony "Hannibal" Hopkins hears voices. "I've always had a little voice in my head, particularly when I was younger and less assured," he said.

### ***You do hear voices; we all do.***

One writer put it this way: "We are inundated every day with messages from a wide variety of sources. And whether the **voices** that enter our mind are solicited or not, the fact remains that in today's world, they are nearly impossible to avoid."

You hear the voices of politics, advertising, philosophy, religion, medicine, psychology, art & entertainment, social media, the government, science, parents, television, friends, mentors, teachers, etc.

Now hear this. Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (John 10:27).

- Four times in our text Jesus invites us to hear His voice.
- He warns us not to listen to the others.

I'll organize my comments around two points: **#1 You Have The Ability To Recognize God's Voice**, and **#2 You Have The Advantage Of Rejecting What Is Not God's Voice**.

### **#1 - You Have The Ability To Recognize God's Voice (v1-18)**

Who remembers Nipper? I'll give you a hint: He was a dog.

Nipper was the famous dog sitting listening to a gramophone, head cocked to one side. A slogan accompanied the image; can you recall it? "His master's voice."

#### **We hear "Our Master's voice."**

Let's begin with verse six. It reveals our theme.

Joh 10:6 Jesus used this **illustration**, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

Jesus will portray Himself as the Good Shepherd, and believers as His favored sheep. It is doubtless one of the most popular, most endearing, representations of the Lord.

Not to take anything away from it, but Jesus was using shepherd & sheep as an "illustration." He wants believers to know that we can hear His voice, and there is no better way to illustrate it.

This would be a radical departure for the Jews. God spoke to them through Moses, the prophets, some kings. On occasion, He might reveal Himself to someone He intended to use to accomplish His will. God constantly speaking to an ordinary Israelite was outside of their experience and expectation.

There is no biblical reason why God could not speak to a person audibly today. However, even in the Bible, God speaking audibly is the exception, not the rule. And it is not always clear whether it was an audible voice, or the more common inner voice, or a mental impression.

Joh 10:1 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

I highly recommend you read, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, by Phillip Keller. It is a classic.

A "sheepfold" is an enclosure of some kind where sheep are penned. The very first thing Jesus wanted us to know is that thieves and robbers devise sinister plans to overshadow God's voice.

**The Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden can be attributed to Eve hearing the voice of a thief and a robber instead of listening to God's voice.**

The devil is a liar. He is the father of lies. The Bible says he is the god of this world, and that he influences nonbelievers to do his will. He bombards us with lies from the various voices of the world.

Not everything you hear is a lie. But any worldly voice is going to lie about God. Science, for example, has discovered so many marvelous truths.

It's too bad that the majority of people doing science reject special Creation in favor of a godless model that encourages survival of the fittest. It is a lie that has led to the devaluing of human life. We see its awful consequences every time there is a mass shooting, every time there is a legal abortion.

Joh 10:2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

Joh 10:3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

Flocks penned together were guarded by "the doorkeeper." He recognized the shepherds and allowed them to gather their flocks.

The sheep knew their shepherd's voice when he used a call he had taught them. They would follow no else. Search YouTube for sheep calls. *E-yaw-wee*.

Our Shepherd gave His life for us. In doing so, He defeated many malevolent, supernatural creatures that seek to kill sheep:

- The devil is depicted as a devouring, roaring lion.
- In Psalm 22, which predicts Jesus on the Cross, we read of “strong bulls of Bashan” surrounding Him (v12).
- Also in Psalm 22 is “the power of the dog” (v20) and the “horns of the wild oxen” (v21).

The film version of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* captures this extraordinarily well. As Jadis, the White Witch, slays Aslan, all manner of weird, wicked creatures rejoice. These, like those in Psalm 22, still hunt us, but they are defeated. For us, to live is to serve the Lord, and to die, even better.

Jesus said the shepherd called his sheep by name. “Good morning, Shaun. How are we doing today, Lambchop? Hello, Dolly.” (Dolly was the world’s first mammal to be cloned).

It reminds me of the Lord’s promise in the *Revelation*, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches... I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*’ ” (2:17).

In Pixar’s *Cars*, Fred gets excited because Lightning McQueen calls him by name. He doesn’t realize that McQueen is reading his personalized license plate.

In Heaven we will sing, “He knows my name.” No name tag will be necessary, because Jesus has an intimate knowledge of each one of us.

Joh 10:4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

Moving a herd of cattle is a cattle drive. Sheep are not driven, they are led. William MacDonald says, “He does not ask them to go anywhere that He Himself has not first gone. He is ever out in front of the sheep as their Savior, their Guide, and Example. Those who are true sheep of Christ follow Him. They do not *become* sheep by following His example, but by being born again. Then when they are saved, they have a desire to go where He leads.”

Joh 10:5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

You've probably been told that sheep are among the dumbest animals. I don't know about that, but I do know that they are smarter than believers.

They will not heed the "voice of strangers." We, on the other hand, entertain and even go looking for other voices for hope and help.

**Jesus is sufficient to save you, and He is more than sufficient for life and godliness.**

"They," the Pharisees from chapter nine, "did not understand," because they were not believers. Jesus preached to them.

Joh 10:7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

In the pastures, there was no doorkeeper. The shepherd would camp at the entrance, in effect making him the door.

**One door, one way in - Jesus.**

Joh 10:8 All who *ever* came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

"All" likely means that there will always be "thieves and robbers." Every generation, in every dispensation, has loud voices seeking to drown-out the voice of Jesus.

Big controversy over a same-sex kiss in *Lightyear*, the Buzz Lightyear movie. Chris Evans, who voices Buzz, commented, "The real truth is those people are idiots. Every time there's been social advancement as we wake up, the American story, the human story is one of constant social awakening and growth and that's what makes us good."

My sincere question to Captain America is, "How far can we 'advance' before you draw the line?" In April, an Illinois school district unveiled curriculum teaching preschoolers about sexual orientation and gender identity. Maybe Cap would agree. I'm guessing that there would be a line further out that he would retreat from.

The point is, *everyone draws the line*. Christians draw the line based on the original standard, established by God, and proven effective for 7000 years of history.

Joh 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

Joh 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

Instead of rejoicing in the miracle of the man born blind receiving sight, the Pharisees “cast him out.” It was *spiritual* stealing, killing, and destroying. Compare what Jesus did. He made him whole, giving him a brand new life.

*Giving* or *laying down* His life are emphasized in the next verses. Jesus was preaching the Cross to them. He was witnessing.

Joh 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Jim Croce should have written a song about shepherds. “You don’t mess around with them; they are badder than old King Kong.”

Teen-aged David faced down a twelve foot tall Philistine giant, felling him with one slung rock, then cut off his head with his own sword. By the time David was done, Goliath looked like a jigsaw puzzle with a couple of pieces gone.

Jesus’ fight would take place on the Cross, on a hill called, *The Place of the Skull*. He would fell the devil by His sacrificial death.

Jesus said that He “gives” His life for us. Charles Spurgeon wrote, “*He is giving His life still*. The life that is in the man Christ Jesus He is always giving for us. It is for us He lives, and because He lives we live also. He lives to plead for us. He lives to represent us in Heaven. He lives to rule providence for us.”

Joh 10:12 But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.

Joh 10:13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

Maybe it’s because I’ve never been involved in a bank robbery, or that I am a coward, but I don’t understand the hero bank manager who pushes the silent alarm only to be shot dead. *It’s not his money. He is a hireling*. In the movie, *Heat*, Robert DiNero tells

the people, "Your money is insured by the Federal Government. You're not going to lose a dime."

Jesus was, maybe, warning us against hiring shepherds. I think the greater lesson is that Jesus will never leave us or forsake us.

Joh 10:14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own.  
Joh 10:15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

God created man with the purpose of the human race having fellowship with God, the way the Father and the Son have fellowship with one another. It started out that way, in the Garden of Eden. After Adam and Eve's sin, however, the Son had to come as a man in order to die in our place, in order to restore the fellowship.

Joh 10:16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd.

"One flock and one Shepherd" speaks of the Church Age between His ascension and return to resurrect the dead in Christ and rapture living believers.

Joh 10:17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

Joh 10:18 No one takes 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 command I have received from My Father."

- Jesus predicted His death, saying four times that He would voluntarily "lay down" His "life."
- Jesus predicted His resurrection twice.

"Command" is better translated, *commission*. The Father did not '*volun-told*' Jesus to become a man and die. Jesus *volunteered*, willingly.

It seems odd to say, "therefore My Father loves Me." We know that the Father loved Jesus from eternity. He could not love Him more, or less, because of the Cross.

*Jesus said this for our benefit.* On the night before Jesus laid down His life for us, He prayed that "the love with which you have loved me may be in them." I like the way

the Amplified Bible translates this: "So that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them."

One commentator wrote, *"Here are heights and depths of love too staggering to grasp or take in: That the Father loves us as He loves His beloved Son Jesus! We would think this sacrilegious to even think, except that it is our Lord Jesus saying it."*

**I**t's called *Mosquito*. It is an anti-loitering device that plays an annoying tone in a frequency only teenagers can hear. Not that you'd want to buy it... At [mosquitoloiteringsolutions.com](http://mosquitoloiteringsolutions.com)

You have the capacity, the ability, to hear God's voice. Here's the thing: This is not something you learn to do over time. It is something that happens to you when you are saved.

Like every other good and perfect gift, you simply believe that it is true, **because it is.**

## **#2 - You Have The Advantage Of Rejecting What Is Not God's Voice (v19-21)**

- The serial killer known as BTK believed a "demon" inside of him drove him to murder.
- Ted Bundy described a malignant entity within him.

None of these serial guys ever say anything like, "I saw a man born blind from birth, and the demon emerged and took over. He forced me to make clay out of dirt and spittle, and send him away to wash and be healed."

The Jews are going to accuse Jesus of having a demon as the source of His good works. It is outrageously absurd. Demons are malevolent. They don't go around making wine at weddings, raising the dead, healing the lame, forgiving women caught in adultery.

Joh 10:19 Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings.

Joh 10:20 And many of them said, "He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?"

Joh 10:21 Others said, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"



Same message, two responses. That bothers us. We want to know what happens in the human heart when exposed to the Gospel. Why are some saved while others are not saved?

Theologians debate the *Ordo Salutis*. That's Latin for "order of salvation," which deals with the *steps* or *stages* in the salvation of a believer.

How do election, foreknowledge, predestination, redemption, regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification 'work'? (Romans 8:29-30).

It boils down to which of these statements you would choose:

👎 "The Bible teaches that a person must be born again *before* he or she can believe and be saved."

👍 "The Bible teaches that you believe and then you are born again."

### **We say you believe and are born again.**

We share the Gospel, proclaiming that "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (First Corinthians 15:4).

His death was necessary so that God the Father could remain just in judging sin, but justify sinners.

- When Jesus was lifted up on the Cross, He drew all men to Himself (John 12:32).
- He is the Savior of all men, especially those who believe (First Timothy 4:10).
- Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).
- After you believe and are born again, you are predestined to be conformed into the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29).
- He that began this good work in you will perform it until you go to be with Him by death or rapture (Philippians 1:6).
- You will be raised (or raptured) in a glorified body, fit for life in eternity (First Corinthians 15).

"God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one *we are* the aroma of death *leading* to death, and to the other the aroma of life *leading* to life"

(Second Corinthians 2:14-16). We are diffusers. Why the Gospel is *sweet* or a *stench* is not up to us.

In an uncharacteristic quote, John Calvin wrote, "Since no man is excluded from calling upon God, the gate of salvation is open to all. There is nothing else to hinder us from entering, but our own unbelief."

The Gospel of John is called the Gospel of belief. It isn't just for nonbelievers to be evangelized.

**It is for believers to believe, and one thing to believe is that you can hear the voice of the Lord above all others.**

**Jesus says to us, "You can hear Me now."**