

LISTENING TO HIS VOICE

5/2 & 5/3

[John 10:11-18](#) - Jesus is the Good Shepherd who leads us to places that are for our benefit, even when we don't see the benefit. It is easy to follow the Shepherd when things are going the way we think they should. What happens when they aren't going the way they should? What do we do? We tend to ignore the Shepherd and walk away from Him. Then we wonder why we can't hear his voice anymore. We have distanced ourselves from the Shepherd. As He continues to call us, His voice grows quieter in our ears. What can we do? We can turn around and walk back to the Shepherd. We can submit to where the Shepherd is leading. We can trust the Shepherd knows what He is doing.

What does Jesus' voice sound like?

When have you ignored Jesus? What happened?

Where is Jesus leading you?

Sermon Notes



Our Journey for April 27 – May 3, 2026

When we think of Jesus, many images come to mind. One of the more common is shepherd. The shepherd once had a vital role in the community, but over time, that role became less honorable. When Jesus was born, the shepherds were tolerated but were often accused of being a bad influence in the community. Surprisingly, Jesus would describe himself as the good shepherd, but the more he unpacks it, the more fitting it becomes. Jesus says the sheep know the shepherd's voice and will not listen to other voices. He also points out that the good shepherd fights for his sheep, while other shepherds would run away from danger. The crowd listening to this teaching would be really confused, because they knew Jesus' physical voice and saw him standing in front of them, so it was easy to follow him. They didn't understand how they would be led astray by false shepherds. We still struggle with this notion of being led astray until we listen for Jesus' voice amidst the noise of life, then it becomes clear that we need to listen. ~ Pastor Seth

IT'S ALL THERE

Mon. 4/27

[Psalm 23](#) – This psalm brings a lot of comfort. It starts with the Lord is my Shepherd, and I have all that I need. God gives the food, rest, comfort, strength, and satisfaction that we need. The rest of the psalm points out the times when God provided what was needed, from honor to protection. God prepared a table in front of the enemies. God anointed the psalmist's head and provided a great blessing. In the dark moments, God's rod and staff are there to guide and protect. As God continues to provide what is needed, the psalmist wants to dwell with God as mercy and goodness follow him all the days of his life. It's all there for us to live in as well.

What does it look like to have Jesus as your Shepherd?

When have you felt that God has given you all that you need?

THE QUIETNESS

Tue. 4/28

[1 Samuel 3:1-21](#) – How often do we hear God speak? What does His voice sound like? The opening of 1 Samuel 3 gives us an insight into Eli and Samuel's world. The word of the Lord was rare, and there were not many visions. It had been a while since someone asked Samuel about God's voice. When Samuel heard God speak, he first thought it was Eli calling him. No one taught Samuel what the voice of God sounded like. No one prepared him for what God would say. No one made a concerted effort to be still and open for God's voice. It does make one wonder whether we are open to God speaking in our world today, or whether we have grown accustomed to the silence. It took Eli a few times to understand that God was speaking to Samuel. How many times does it take us?

When was the last time God spoke to you?

How do you know that it was God?

A NEW SHEPHERD

Wed. 4/29

[Ezekiel 34:1-31](#) – The prophet Ezekiel shares the words God gave him as the people would soon return to Israel. They have been exiled because of their actions in tossing God aside, and no one is holding them accountable to God's words. God uses the imagery of shepherds to describe how He sees the religious leaders' failings before the exile. They used the sheep for their own benefit. They mistreated the sheep by not providing the medical care they needed, not guiding them to the proper pastures so they would not go hungry, and not going after the sheep when they were lost. It was time for a change, and God would soon send a new shepherd who would provide what the sheep needed and bring them back from wherever they had strayed.

How do you relate to these words of Ezekiel?

Who is the new shepherd? What makes you say that?

LEAVE THE 99

Thur. 4/30

[Luke 15:1-7](#) – There are times when Jesus shares something unconventional. Most of the time, we think about the greater good when it comes to large gatherings. We can't meet everyone's needs, so we do what we can and hope others will help those we can't. Jesus talks about caring for 100 sheep in this parable. One of them wandered off into unknown places, which puts the shepherd in a real-life dilemma. Do you leave the 99 or not? Most of us think that we care for the 99 and leave the one. Jesus says that you leave the 99 to find the one. It doesn't make sense because the 99 will reproduce, and you will make up the one that is lost. In Jesus' view, the one is just as important as the 99 and, in some ways, even more important.

What would you do? Leave the 99 or the one? Why?

What are you currently doing to find the one?

OUR JOB

Fri. 5/1

[1 Peter 5:1-11](#) – Peter made his living as a fisherman. So, it is odd for him to use sheep to help people learn to live together. He writes about shepherds and sheep at the end of his first letter because he wants to teach and encourage those who will read it. He starts with the shepherds or the leaders (he uses the term elders) of the church. He encourages them to be willing to serve, not to take advantage of the sheep. He also encourages the church's members to humble themselves and submit to the elders. It sounds like he is encouraging them to be good sheep. The language of sheep fits with the image of the devil being a lion. The lion picks off the young and sick sheep who are lagging. When we are not listening to those around us, we tend to be left on our own and easy pickings for the lion.

Why do we need a community of faith?

How do we live in that community? Are you?