

Series: **One Body**

One Body: Eyes that See

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Scripture: John 10:1-17, 22-28

¹"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. ³The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.

²²Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade. ²⁴The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

²⁵Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

Outline

Group Session

Opening Questions

- a. Have you ever heard from God?
- b. Are you suspicious when someone else quotes God and they aren't referring to the Bible?
- c. What makes us suspicious if we believe God speaks to people today?
- d. What is one thing you'd most like to hear from God about right now?

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. Read the passage above. What are some truths we learn from this passage?
2. What are your thoughts about this statement: "A person that ignores the voice of God is going to experience negative consequences." (see Heb. 3:8-9, 11)

So then, we can assume that "People who listen and obey will experience blessings."

3. Let's make a list as a group of the ways God speaks to us. (Henry Blackaby in the book, Experiencing God, says that God speaks through the Bible, prayer, circumstances and the church.)
4. John 10:4 says, "The sheep follow him because they know His voice." What does this verse tell us about our relationship with Him if we are not hearing His voice?
5. John 10:10 speaks about abundant life. What is the abundant life that God intends for us? Does that mean financial success? What can we really expect? Do you have any scripture to back up your beliefs on this matter?
6. How can we discern God's voice from other thoughts? (It is consistent over time. It is consistent with God's word.)
7. The Bible teaches that we reap what we sow. If we really believe this truth, are we sowing the things that yield the outcome God desires for us? What is the top thing that competes for our time with God?

Closing Challenge

Some of the reasons we do not hear God are...

- a. We don't expect God to speak.
- b. We are distracted by noise. (Mark 4:18-19)
- c. We don't like what we hear.
- d. He is not truly our shepherd.

Which of these is the leading reason for you not hearing God? What will you do this week to change that in your life?