



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 141 - On Being Sheep (John 10)

Raising Sheep

- Describe what you know about raising livestock today, especially sheep. (Google it, if you aren't sure.)
- Why is it important for us to know how they raised sheep in Jesus' day?

When sheep were in town, flocks were kept in sheep pens, so they could be guarded and protected. When the shepherd came to lead them to pasture, he stood in front and led his flock by his voice. The sheep heard his voice and followed him.

- Why is the picture of Jesus being a shepherd leading His flock from the front more appealing than a cowboy driving his herd from the rear?

Ezekiel's Shepherds

In chapter 34, Ezekiel addresses the leaders of Israel. He exposes the awful way they have been leading God's people. Jesus saw many of those same qualities in the spiritual leaders in His day. That's why He spoke of them as hired hands and not true shepherds.

- Who do you consider to be false shepherds today?
- Why are people so easily led astray by false leaders?

The Good Shepherd

Jesus is God Himself, the Good Shepherd who leads and protects His flock. David once spoke of the kinds of situations in which an Israelite shepherd would lay down his life for the flock. As he volunteered to fight Goliath he told King Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him" (1 Samuel 17:34-35).

- Flesh out the way Jesus' suffering and death paralleled David's struggles against the wild animals that attacked his sheep.
- Why is it important for us that Jesus took up His own life again at His resurrection, and continues to lead us as our Good Shepherd?

Sheep from Different Folds

It was often difficult for the disciples to accept that God's love extended beyond Israel to all people of every nation.

- Why was it important for Jesus to plant the seeds of this idea in His disciples as He healed Gentiles, commended their faith, and mentioned them in illustrations such as this?

Whether Jew or Gentile, all of us are descendants of Adam and Eve, and for that reason are united in one human family.

- Why is it important to remind ourselves of this fact when we think of evangelism and missions?