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John 10 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

John 10 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Jesus reveals Himself as the true Shepherd, not just a teacher but the One who owns, knows, and protects the sheep

† This chapter exposes false leaders in Israel and shows the transfer of authority from them to Christ

† It also points forward to the judgment that came on that corrupt system and the gathering of a new covenant people

John 10:1

Anyone who climbs into the sheep pen another way instead of

entering through the gate is a thief and a robber

† False leaders in Israel were not sent by God, they took authority for themselves (Jeremiah 23:21)

† Jesus is exposing the Pharisees who rejected Him yet claimed authority over the people

† This sets the stage for identifying the true Shepherd versus impostors

John 10:2

The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep

† Christ entered lawfully, fulfilling prophecy and coming through Israel as promised (Micah 5:2)

† He is the legitimate Shepherd appointed by the Father

† Authority is not self-claimed but divinely given

John 10:3

The gatekeeper opens for him, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out

† The sheep represent believers who recognize truth when they hear it (Isaiah 55:3)

† Being called by name shows personal relationship, not religion

† Leading them out points to coming out of the old system

John 10:4

When he brings out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice

† Christ leads, He doesn't force

† True believers follow because they recognize truth, not because of pressure

† This is covenant relationship, not institutional control

John 10:5

They will not follow a stranger, instead they will run from him

because they do not recognize the voice of strangers

† Truth and error are distinguishable to those who belong to Christ

† Israel's leaders were strangers to the truth despite their position

† This explains why many rejected the Pharisees and followed Jesus

John 10:6

Jesus spoke this illustration to them, but they did not understand what He was saying

† Spiritual blindness was already upon the leaders (Isaiah 6:9-10)

† Their lack of understanding was judgment, not just ignorance

† They couldn't see because they refused to see

John 10:7

So Jesus said again, I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep

† Jesus is not just the Shepherd, He is also the entrance

† Access to God is through Him alone, not through the temple system

† This shifts authority away from the old covenant structure

John 10:8

All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them

† This refers to false leaders, not true prophets

† Many leaders in Israel abused power and misled the people

† The faithful remnant did not follow them

John 10:9

I am the gate, whoever enters through me will be saved, they will go in and out and find pasture

† Salvation is through Christ alone

† Going in and out speaks of freedom, not bondage under law

† Pasture represents provision and life in the new covenant

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy, I came so they may have life and have it fully

† False leaders brought spiritual death

† Christ brings life, not just existence but fullness

† This is covenant life fulfilled in Him

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd, the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep

† Jesus contrasts Himself with selfish leaders

† His death was intentional, not accidental

† This is the foundation of redemption

John 10:12

The hired worker is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, so when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away

† False leaders had no real care for the people

† They were motivated by position, not responsibility

† When danger came, they failed

John 10:13

He runs away because he is a hired worker and cares nothing for the sheep

† This exposes the heart of corrupt leadership

† They valued themselves over the people

† This is exactly what Israel's leaders did before AD 70

John 10:14

I am the good shepherd, I know my sheep and my sheep know me

† Mutual relationship defines the covenant

† This is not religion, it's identity and belonging

† Knowing Christ is the defining mark of the believer

John 10:15

Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I lay down my life for the sheep

† The relationship between Christ and believers reflects His relationship with the Father

† His death was part of that divine plan

† This shows unity and purpose

John 10:16

I have other sheep that are not of this fold, I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock and one shepherd

† This includes the nations, not just Israel

† The dividing wall was being removed (Ephesians 2:14)

† One flock shows unity in Christ, not separation

John 10:17

The Father loves me because I lay down my life, so that I may take it up again

† His death and resurrection were central to the plan

† The Father and Son are in agreement

† This is not defeat, it's victory

John 10:18

No one takes it from me, I lay it down willingly, I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again

† Christ is fully in control

† His authority proves His identity

† This shows divine power over life and death

John 10:19

Again there was division among the Jews because of these words

† Truth always divides

† Jesus forced a response, belief or rejection

† Division is evidence of confrontation with truth

John 10:20

Many of them said, He is demon-possessed and out of his mind, why listen to him

† Rejection often turns into accusation

† They couldn't refute Him, so they attacked Him

† This reflects hardened hearts

John 10:21

Others said, these are not the words of someone possessed by a demon, can a demon open the eyes of the blind

† Some recognized the truth through His works

† Miracles confirmed His authority

† Evidence was present, but not all accepted it

John 10:22

Then came the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, it was winter

† This was a time of remembrance of temple cleansing

† The true Temple stood among them and was rejected

† Timing highlights their blindness

John 10:23

Jesus was walking in the temple courts in Solomon's Colonnade

† He was openly present, not hiding

† The leaders had full access to Him

† Yet they still rejected Him

John 10:24

The Jews gathered around Him saying, how long will you keep us in suspense, if you are the Christ, tell us plainly

† They demanded clarity but had already rejected evidence

† Their question was not sincere

† They wanted confirmation to accuse Him

John 10:25

Jesus answered, I did tell you, but you do not believe, the works I do in my Father's name testify about me

† The problem was not lack of information

† It was unbelief

† His works were clear proof

John 10:26

But you do not believe because you are not my sheep

† Identity determines response

† They rejected Him because they didn't belong to Him

† This is covenant separation

John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me

† True believers respond to Christ

† Relationship produces obedience

† This defines the flock

John 10:28

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, no one will snatch them out of my hand

† Eternal life is present reality in Christ

† Security is based on Him, not us

† This is covenant assurance

John 10:29

My Father who has given them to me is greater than all, no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand

† Double security, the Father and the Son

† This shows unity and power

† No external force can overcome this

John 10:30

I and the Father are one

- † This declares divine unity
- † Not just agreement, but essence
- † This is why they reacted strongly

John 10:31

Again the Jews picked up stones to stone Him

- † They understood His claim
- † They saw it as blasphemy
- † Their reaction reveals rejection

John 10:32

Jesus said, I have shown you many good works from the Father, for which of these do you stone me

- † He confronts their inconsistency
- † His works were undeniable
- † Their issue was His identity

John 10:33

They replied, we are not stoning you for any good work, but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God

- † They understood His claim clearly
- † Their rejection was intentional
- † They refused Him as God

John 10:34

Jesus answered, is it not written in your Law, I said, you are gods

- † He refers to Psalm 82:6
- † He uses their own scripture
- † This exposes inconsistency

John 10:35

If He called them gods to whom the word of God came, and Scripture cannot be broken

- † Scripture is authoritative
- † His argument stands firm

† The word cannot fail

John 10:36

Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, I am God's Son

† He exposes their double standard

† His claim is greater and justified

† They rejected truth

John 10:37

If I am not doing the works of my Father, do not believe me

† He invites evaluation

† Truth can be tested

† His works prove Him

John 10:38

But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works

† Evidence was undeniable

† Their rejection was willful

† This shows hardened unbelief

John 10:39

Again they tried to seize Him, but He escaped their grasp

† His time had not come

† No one could take Him early

† Divine control is shown

John 10:40

Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and He stayed there

† He withdraws from hostility

† This connects to John's testimony

† The mission continues

John 10:41

Many people came to Him, they said, though John never

performed a sign, everything he said about this man was true

† John's testimony was confirmed

† Truth stands without signs

† His witness was accurate

John 10:42

And in that place many believed in Him

† Faith continues outside Jerusalem

† The true flock gathers

† The new covenant people are formed

Historical References

† Josephus describes corrupt priesthood leadership before AD 70, confirming the thief and robber pattern

† Eusebius records the destruction of Jerusalem as judgment on that system

† Irenaeus affirms Christ as the Shepherd gathering one flock

† Clement of Alexandria speaks of believers recognizing the voice of truth

How It Applies To Us Today

† We recognize Christ's voice over religious systems

† True leadership reflects Christ, not control

† Our identity is in Him, not institutions

† We rest in His security

† We walk in the life He gives

Q: What does it mean that Jesus is the gate?

A: Access to God is only through Him (John 10:9, Acts 4:12)

Q: Who are the thieves and robbers?

A: Corrupt leaders who claimed authority without being sent by God (Jeremiah 23:21)

Q: What are the other sheep?

A: The nations brought into one flock (Ephesians 2:14-16)

Q: Can believers lose their salvation?

A: No, no one can take them from His hand (John 10:28-29)

Q: Why did they want to stone Him?

A: Because He claimed unity with the Father (John 10:30-33)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† John 10

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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