

A Contrast of Shepherds

A significant backdrop for John 9 and 10 is found in Ezekiel 34. There the prophet declares judgment against the wicked shepherds (leaders) of Israel who neglect and take advantage of the flock (God's people). God promises that he himself will one day come to lead and care for his sheep. In John 9, Jesus, acting as the Good Shepherd, heals, seeks, and cares for one of his sheep, while the religious leaders abuse him and excommunicate him. Then in John 10, Jesus makes his identity as the Good Shepherd explicit, again in contrast with the wicked shepherds who would not receive him. These two chapters help us to understand the profound care our Good Shepherd offers us as his sheep, and challenge us to follow him as we should.

CHAPTER 9

1. The Good Shepherd Caring for the Sheep (9:1–12)
2. The Wicked Shepherds Castigating the Sheep (9:13–34)
 - a. Interrogation #1: The Pharisees question the man (15–17).
Result: Pharisees divided.
 - b. Interrogation #2: The Pharisees question the parents (18–23).
Result: Inconclusive
 - c. Interrogation #3: The Pharisees re-question the man (24–34).
Result: Pharisees rebuked; the man excommunicated
3. The Good Shepherd Seeking His Sheep (9:35–40)
 - a. Those inside the fold (35–38): Belief, worship, forgiveness, life
 - b. Those outside the fold (39–41): Unbelief, rejection, guilt, judgment

CHAPTER 10

1. The Good Shepherd and the “Wicked Shepherds” (10:1–21)
 - a. The True Shepherd and the Stranger (1–5)
Public Reaction: Lack of Understanding (6)
 - b. The Door and the Thieves (7–10)
 - c. The Good Shepherd and the Hired Hand (11–18)
Public Reaction: Divided Opinions (19–21)
2. The Good Shepherd and the Sheep (10:22–42)
 - a. Those Who Did Not Believe
 - b. Those Who Did Believe