

SHEPHERDING

JOHN10: 1-40

Sometimes Mike challenges me by giving assignments that are difficult.

Anyone with experience of shepherding in 'vvestry'?

The audience to whom Jesus spoke obviously understood the imagery in this passage, and as a result, the spiritual message was more accessible.

We need to investigate shepherding in Palestine 2000 years ago.

We'll do that initially then attempt to tease out the meaning of some of these difficult verses.

Verse 6: "All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them." Explain?

Verse 7: "I am the gate. Whoever enters before by me will be saved." Explain?

Verses 11-18: "I know my own and my own know me."

"I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold."

"I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me."

This is a sample of some of the phrases that we need to explore in order to understand Christ's message.

Verse 22: What is the 'Festival of Dedication'?

"If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." He then said: "The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me."

Andrew touched on the theme of 'Works' last week.

We are saved by grace. What part do works play?

The statement within the asterisk may be a gotcha statement. His response: "The Father and I are one".

What was the intention behind this response? Was it intentional provocation?

Verse 34: Jesus answered, "Is it not written in your law, you are gods?"

What is going on here? Is Christ playing mind games with 'The Jews'.

Verses 36,37: "I am God's Son'. If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me."

These are just some of the areas I want to explore with you. There may be others.

“It is the duty of a good shepherd to shear his sheep, not to skin them”. Tiberius.