



## Part 1: The Opposite Agenda

Pastor Grant Fishbook

March 1 & 2, 2008

### Jesus gets our attention:

I tell you the truth... Truly, truly... Verily, verily...

### The most accurate translation of Greek that I can muster:

You're not going to believe this, but it's true, it's true!

### John 10:1-11

---

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

<sup>7</sup>Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. <sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

### Three Opposing Agendas

---

#### 1. The Religious Agenda of the Pharisees

Monitor the gate

Jesus may be the gate, but we hold the key.

#### 2. The Covert Agenda of the Enemy

Thieves: those who come to steal (*vs. 1*)

Robbers: those who come to do violence (*vs.1*)

Steal, kill, and destroy (*vs. 10*)

*(Continues on back)*

### 3. The Agenda of the Good Shepherd

Personal Care      *He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out (vs.3)*

Leadership      *...he goes on ahead of them (vs.4)*

Clarity      *I am the gate (vs 7)*

Salvation      *...whoever enters through me will be saved (vs.9a)*

Freedom      *...he will come in and go out, and find pasture... I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (vss.9-10)*

Sacrifice      *The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (vs.11)*

#### Application Questions

1. Whose agenda is directing your life?
2. Do you know the voice of the Good Shepherd?
3. Will you believe that what Jesus said is true?

#### On Your Way Home

What's on the agenda for the rest of the day? Do you have a plan? Why or why not? Who is in control of the agenda and why are they calling the shots? Just asking!

#### Group Life Discussion Questions



- 1) Which statement best describes you?
  - a. I have an agenda and it must be completed by day's end.
  - b. I just sail along and see what comes up
  - c. I think people with lists and agendas are sick!
  - d. I see a need for a plan but don't often use one
- 2) Can you name a thief or a robber that steals a portion of your life? I believe the most common one is laziness. Can you think of any others?
- 3) Read John 10:1-11 again. Who was Jesus talking to? Why do you think the Pharisees were so angry when Jesus called himself both the good shepherd and the gate?
- 4) John tells us in verse 6, "they did not understand what he was telling them." Are there any parts of the story that are unclear to you? Now is a great time to ask for clarity.
- 5) How do you recognize the voice of the good shepherd?
- 6) Which of the 6 agendas of the good shepherd is the most meaningful to you during the Easter season? How will it change the way you live your life this coming week?
- 7) How can we pray for you tonight?