



The Sixth Objective, Part 1

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It's not the parts of the Bible I don't understand that scare me,
but the parts I do understand. – Mark Twain

John 10:1-18

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

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come

that they may have life, and have it to the full.

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

Jesus says, "I am not..."

1. A thief or a robber (verses 1 and 10)

- one who comes to steal

2. A hireling (vv. 12-13)

- one who has no ownership
- one who has no desire to protect the flock
- one who refuses to endure the tough times
- one who responds to threats by running

Jesus says, "I am..."

1. The gate (v. 7)

- provides access to God
- provides protection and security

(Continues on back)

2. The good shepherd (v. 11)

- chooses to provide protection through sacrifice
- chooses to provide life to the full
- chooses to know the sheep individually
- chooses to use the authority to lay down his life and to take it up again

Assumptions:

As followers of Jesus, our goal is to model our lives after Jesus. If Jesus has an owner mentality, then we should too!

The Five Objectives for followers of Jesus at CTK:

1. Seeking God through prayer
2. Studying God's word for growth
3. Sharing our faith in God with others
4. Stewarding our resources as a trust from God
5. Serving others by discovering our God-given gifts

The Sixth Objective

6. Standing together in biblical community

Our Problem: We have too many people trying to get connected.

Our Solution: God's people following God's instructions for God's glory.

Our Decision: I have the authority to use my life anyway I choose.

On The Way Home

What was your favorite TV show as a kid? Why did you like it so much? Was there any mention of community within the context of the show?

Group Life Discussion Questions



- 1) How many forms or expressions of community do you have in your life right now? Share the obvious answers (family, friends, classroom) as well as any that are not so obvious (coffee group at Starbucks). What do they mean to you?
- 2) In what areas of life do you have a "hireling" mentality? Do you think it's possible that anything good can come out of that approach to life?
- 3) Which of the 5 objectives comes easiest for you? Which one is the biggest challenge?
- 4) In what ways are you "laying down your life" this upcoming fall? Why did you choose that particular way to serve?
- 5) Spend the rest of the time just catching up with your other group members. This may be the first time you've been together in a while, so talk – but make it count!
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?