

INTRODUCTION 引言

Advertisement is all about promoting products. It will be a successful campaign if people can associate brand-names with certain goods. For example, we think of Kleenex when we need some tissue. Jacuzzi is a common term for a hot-tub. We ask for Sharpie when we look for a permanent marker. Some brands are so rooted in our mind that they even become everyday language. For instance, we Google around when we search for information on the internet. Instead of photo-copying documents, we Xerox them. You can Uber to the airport if you do not want to park your car there. What do most people think of when they hear the name Jesus? Perhaps a Christmas baby, churches or the cross. Or it could be an image of a long hair man with a beard. The Bible describes Jesus as a servant, the sacrificial lamb and a King. In our passage today, Jesus says He is the door and the good shepherd. He gathers people like lost sheep into His sheep pen. Through Jesus, we gain entrance into His house and He gives us an abundant life.

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Into the Fold 進入羊圈

First of all, Jesus leads us into the fold. He is the way to get in. He says in verses 7 and 9: **“I am the door.”** At that time, a sheepfold is an open area enclosed by a fence or a wall. There is only one door. A gatekeeper will station outside the door at night to watch over the sheep. The animals feel safe in the fold. After all, sheep have nothing to defend themselves. Unlike dogs, they do not have teeth to bite. Unlike cats, they do not have claws to fight. Sheep must seek protection from the shepherd. The fold keeps the sheep inside and keeps predators outside. The shepherd does not only contain his sheep, he also cares for them. Jesus continues to say in verse 9: **“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”** Jesus will protect and provide for His followers, much like a shepherd treats his sheep. We will talk more about the responsibilities of a shepherd later. For now, we will focus on the door. By saying that He is the door, Jesus stresses that He is the only entrance into the fold. That idea echoes with John 14:6, in which Jesus says: **...“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** Jesus is the only way to God. He is the means through which we can be saved. Since Jesus is the shepherd, only He can decide who can enter into His fold. Many people want to go to heaven by good works, religions or philosophical ideas. But they will all fail. The only way to go in is by confessing their sins and receiving Jesus into their hearts. They must also determine to follow Jesus the rest of their life. The question is: do you belong to Jesus’ fold? Jesus invites you to become His sheep. In fact, He intends to gather as many sheep as possible into His fold. He says in verse 16: **“And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”** Those “other sheep” are outside the fold. They will be attacked by wild animals if they wander in

the wilderness. Once I shared the gospel with a young man. At that time, he was not ready to receive Jesus. He said that he felt relaxed not to tie himself to a religion. I knew the person well, and so I gave him a blunt reply: “You may consider yourself free. But according to the Bible, you are homeless.” By God’s grace, that guy later became a believer. There are many people like him who are lost in sin. Will you join the Lord in a search and rescue mission? Jesus sets up the church for two purposes. First, it is to save unsaved people. Some of you invite people to our church. They come here to eat or play pickleball. They drop their kids off to our children ministries. Will you invite them to join our meetings too? Going through our church door is only step one. We must tell them about Jesus and lead them into His fold. Will you find opportunities and share the gospel with them? Jesus’ second purpose for establishing the church is to mature immature believers. We should not be happy just to see people accept Jesus. We must encourage each other to grow in our faith. Unfortunately, there are too many drifting sheep in every church. They do not stay in the sheepfold. Some attend meetings only when it is convenient to them. Others hop around different churches when there are more exciting activities or when renowned speakers come to town. Do not treat yourself like a religious consumer and pick and choose what you like to hear. The pandemic a few years back taught us that we need to interact with others believers face to face. Online sermons are good teaching materials. But they are not a church. Nothing can replace a warm handshake, a friendly smile and a sincere question of “how are you?” Do you notice anyone absent lately? Reach out to them and invite them back. We are family members and sheep of this fold. Only by us sticking together can we become a flock.

2. Onto the Road 走在路上

Jesus does not only lead us into His fold, He also leads us onto the road. Besides being the door to the sheep pen, Jesus says He is the good shepherd. Jesus is kind, gracious and loving. A shepherd has a few main duties. First, he guides his sheep. Sheep rely on the shepherd to find grass and water. They are timid in nature. They will not eat and rest unless the surrounding is calm. Jesus is the good shepherd. He will provide the best for us. He says in verse 10: “...I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” This word “abundantly” does not only measure quantity but also quality. The world tells us that more means better. For example, a six-figure salary is better than a five-figure income. Having three cars is better than just one. In contrast, God’s abundance comes with contentment. It gives us comfort that all we have are the best blessings from God. That takes away worries, knowing that God will provide what we need in His time. A shepherd guides his sheep. He does so with his voice. Jesus describes in verses 4-5: 4 “When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” A shepherd gives each sheep a unique name based on its features. For example, he may say: “Big Ear, watch out for the ditch on your left. Brown Nose, you need to stay with the group.” Sheep will not follow a stranger because they do not know his voice. Other than guiding his sheep to the right place, a shepherd also guards them from danger. A shepherd walks at the front to make sure that the path is safe. He also watches out for hiding wild animals. In verse 12, Jesus compares the response of a shepherd to a worker when they spot a wolf: “He who

is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.” A workman will sacrifice the sheep in order to save his life. However, the shepherd will sacrifice himself to save his sheep. He may use his rod to chase the wolf away. Remember the time when David volunteered himself to fight Goliath the giant? King Saul thought that David was too young. But David testified that he had killed a lion and a bear and rescued a sheep from the mouth of those beasts. Jesus was more than a responsible shepherd. The audience must be shocked to hear what Jesus says in verse 11: “...The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” It is unthinkable for a shepherd to lose his life for his sheep. Sheep without their shepherd are very vulnerable. A shepherd may injure himself while fighting off wild animals. But Jesus refers to losing His life on the cross. The amazing thing is that the loss of the Good Shepherd does not expose His sheep to danger. It saves them from eternal judgment. Jesus gives away His own life in order to give us everlasting life. In view of all that Jesus does, what should be our proper responses? Jesus tells us in verse 27: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” In the context, Jesus is having a discussion with some Jewish religious leaders. The Lord explains why they did not believe in Him. It was simply because they were not His sheep. The religious leaders rejected Jesus, and so they would not obey Him. How about you? Do you listen to Jesus’ voice if you consider Him your shepherd? It is not only about hearing but also following His guidance. Or do you do things your way? Do you know His voice? God of course can speak to us from heaven. But He does not need to, since He has given us the Bible. We call the book God’s Word for a reason. It is like some written instructions from God. He will speak to you as you read the Bible. But you must go a step further and do what He says. You will be blessed when you walk in the truth. Moreover, when we are familiar with the Good Shepherd’s voice then we can distinguish strangers’ voices. There are so many opinions in the world. If God’s Word is in our hearts, then we can discern if certain ideas are contrary to the truth.

CONCLUSION 結論

Through Jesus, we gain entrance into His house and He gives us an abundant life. Jesus is the only door to the Father. Jesus is also the only Good Shepherd we should follow. There are many stray sheep out there that need to come home. Will you go look for them and invite them to Jesus’ fold? They may be your family members, friends, classmates or coworkers. They may be the people who mow your lawn or fix your house. They also include the gospel seekers who come to our church regularly. Before you tell Jesus to them, you need to tell Jesus about them. In other words, you need to pray for them. Church coworkers put up a noticeboard in the hallway. We begin a new initiative called “Project Plus One.” I am sure you know at least one non-Christian. Do you hope that one day he/she will be saved? Put the name of that person on a piece of magnet and stick it to the board. If you prefer not to write the full name, you can put down the first name, a nickname or the initials. Brothers and sisters will pray for those people with you. We hope that God will give you opportunities to share the gospel with them, and He will open their hearts so that they are ready to listen. We work with one another and we work together with God and lead them back. We will make an announcement if any of them receives Jesus. Will you join us in this exciting effort?

INTRODUCTION 引言

廣告是為了推銷產品。如果人們能夠將牌子與某些商品聯繫起來，那就是成功的推銷。例如，當我們需要紙巾時，我們會想到 Kleenex。Jacuzzi 是按摩浴缸的常見稱呼。當我們要找永久性記號筆時，我們會要求一支 Sharpie。有些品牌深深留在我們的腦海中，甚至變成日常用語。例如，當我們在網路上搜尋資訊時，我們會「谷歌」(Google) 一下。當我們複印文件時，我們便 Xerox。如果你不想把車子停在機場，你可以「優步」(Uber) 前往。當人們聽到耶穌這個名字時會想到什麼？也許是聖誕嬰孩、教堂或是十字架。也可能是一個留著鬍鬚的長髮男士的圖像。聖經將耶穌描述為僕人、代罪羔羊和君王。在我們今天的經文中，耶穌說祂是門，也是好牧人。祂把人們像迷失的羊一樣領回祂的羊圈裡。藉著耶穌，我們進入祂的家，祂也賜給我們豐盛的生命。

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Into the Fold 進入羊圈

首先，耶穌帶領我們進入羊圈。祂是進去的通道。耶穌在第 7 和第 9 節說：「我就是門。」當時，羊圈是一個用欄杆或牆圍起來的空地。只有一扇門。晚上會有守門人留在外面看守羊群。羊在圈子裡感到安全。畢竟，羊沒有任何本事保護自己。與狗不同，牠們沒有牙齒可以咬人。與貓不同，牠們沒有爪子用來打架。羊必須倚賴牧羊人的保護。羊圈把羊留在裡面，將猛獸拒於門外。牧羊人不僅守衛他的羊，他還會照顧牠們。耶穌在第 9 節繼續說：「我就是門；凡從我進來的，必然得救，並且出入得草吃。」耶穌會保護並供應祂的跟隨者，就像牧羊人對待他的羊一樣。稍後我們會進一步討論牧羊人的責任。現在，我們將重點放在門上。耶穌說祂是門，強調祂是進入羊圈的唯一入口。這個概念與約翰福音 14:6 相呼應，其中耶穌說：...「我就是道路、真理、生命；若不藉著我，沒有人能到父那裡去。」耶穌是通往神的唯一道路。祂是我們得救的途徑。由於耶穌是牧羊人，只有祂能決定誰可以進入祂的羊圈。許多人想透過做好事、宗教或哲學思想去天堂。但他們都會失敗。進入的唯一方法就是承認自己的罪並接受耶穌進入他們的心。他們也必須下定決心一輩子跟隨耶穌。問題是：你屬於耶穌的羊圈嗎？耶穌邀請你成為祂的羊。事實上，祂打算把更多的羊聚集到祂的羊圈中。祂在第 16 節說：「我另外有羊，不是這圈裡的；我必須領他們來，他們也要聽我的聲音，並且要合成一群，歸一個牧人了。」那些「另外的羊」不在圈內。如果他們在荒野徘徊，就會受到猛獸的攻擊。有一次我向一位年輕人傳福音。那時，他還沒有準備好接受耶穌。他說他感到

很自在，因為沒有受到任何宗教的束縛。我和那個人很熟，因此我就直截了當地回答他：「你可能以為自己很自由。但根據聖經，你其實是無家可歸的。」因著神的恩典，那個人後來成為了信徒。有很多像他一樣迷失在罪中的人。你願意與主一起執行搜救任務嗎？耶穌設立教會有兩個目的。第一，是為了拯救尚未得救的人。有一些弟兄姐妹邀請朋友來我們的教會。他們來這裡吃飯或打匹克球。他們把孩子送到我們的兒童事工。你有否邀請他們參加我們的聚會？進入教會的大門只是第一步。我們必須向他們介紹耶穌並帶領他們進入祂的羊圈。你願意尋找機會與他們分享福音嗎？耶穌建立教會的第二個目的是讓不夠成熟的信徒成熟。我們不應該只因為看到有人信耶穌而感到高興。我們必須互相鼓勵，讓我們的靈命成長。很可惜，每個教會裡都有太多漂流的羊。他們沒有留在羊圈裡。有些人只在方便時才來聚會。當有更精彩的活動或名講員來訪時，他們便跳到別的教會。不要把自己看為宗教消費者，只挑選你喜歡聽的信息。幾年前的疫情告訴我們，我們必須與其他信徒面對面聯繫。網路講道是很好的教材，但那些信息不是教會。沒有其他東西可以取代溫暖的握手、友善的微笑和真誠的一句：「你好嗎？」你有沒有注意到最近有誰缺席？聯繫他們並邀請他們回來。我們是這個羊圈的家人和羊。只有我們團結在一起，才能成為羊群。

2. Onto the Road 走在路上

耶穌不只帶領我們進入祂的羊圈，祂也帶領我們走在路上。耶穌除了是羊圈的門之外，祂還說祂是好牧人。耶穌是良善、恩慈和充滿愛的。牧羊人有一些主要責任。首先，他引導他的羊。羊依靠牧羊人尋找草和水。他們天性膽怯。除非周圍環境平靜，否則牠們不會進食和休息。耶穌是好牧人，祂供應我們一切最好的。祂在第 10 節中說：「...我來了，是要叫羊得生命，並且得的更豐盛。」「豐盛」這個字不僅指數量，而且衡量品質。世界告訴我們，東西越多越好。例如，六位數的工資比五位數的收入好。擁有一輛車總比只有一輛好。與之相比，神的豐盛伴隨著知足。它讓我們感到安全，知道我們所擁有的一切都是神最好的祝福。這消除了憂慮，因為我們知道神會在祂的時間供應我們所需要的。牧羊人引導祂的羊群。而且祂是用聲音來引導。耶穌在第 4-5 節中這樣形容：4「既放出自己的羊來，就在前頭走，羊也跟著他，因為認得他的聲音。5 羊不跟著生人；因為不認得他的聲音。必要逃跑。」牧羊人根據每隻羊的特徵給牠起名字。例如，他可能會說：「大耳朵，小心左邊的溝。棕鼻子，不要離開隊伍。羊不會跟著陌生人，因為牠們不認識他的聲音。牧羊人除了引導羊群到適合的地方之外，他還會保護牠們免受危險。牧羊人走在前頭，確保道路安全。他也會注意有沒有野獸埋伏。在第 12 節中，耶穌比較牧羊人和工人發現狼之時的反應：「若是雇工，不是牧人，羊也不是他自己的，他看見狼來，就撇下羊逃走；狼抓住羊，趕散了羊群。」工人為了保住自己的性命而犧牲羊。然而，牧羊人願意犧牲自己來拯救他的羊。他也許用他的杖來趕走狼。還記得大衛自告奮勇對抗巨人歌利亞的故事嗎？掃羅王認為大衛太年輕。但大

衛作見證說，他曾經殺死獅子和熊，並從那些野獸的口中救出羊。耶穌不只是一個負責任的牧羊人。群眾聽到耶穌在第 11 節中所說的話，一定會感到震驚：「我是好牧人；好牧人為羊捨命。」一個牧羊人為羊而犧牲自己的生命是難以想像的。沒有牧羊人的羊是很脆弱的。牧羊人與猛獸搏鬥時可能會受傷。但是耶穌指的是祂在十字架上失去生命。令人驚訝的是，好牧人的去世並沒有讓祂的羊面對危險。祂反而是把他們從永恆的審判中拯救出來。耶穌捨棄了自己的生命，好賜給我們永生。因著耶穌所做的一切，我們該有什麼正確的回應？耶穌在第 27 節告訴我們：「我的羊聽我的聲音，我也認識他們，他們也跟著我。」在上下文中，耶穌與一些猶太宗教領袖進行討論。主解釋為何他們不相信祂。理由很簡單，因為他們不是祂的羊。宗教領袖拒絕耶穌，因此他們不會順服祂。你又如何？如果你視耶穌為你的牧人，你會聽祂的聲音嗎？這不只關乎聆聽，而且也包括服從祂的指導。還是你寧願我行我素地做事？你認識祂的聲音嗎？神當然可以從天上向我們說話。但祂不需要那樣做，因為祂已經給了我們聖經。我們稱這本書為神的話是有原因的。它就像神的一些書面指示。當你讀聖經時，神便向你說話。但你必須進一步按照神所說的去做。當你遵行真理時，你就會蒙福。此外，當我們熟悉好牧人的聲音時，我們就能分辨陌生人的聲音。世界上有很多觀點。如果神的話留在我們的心中，我們就能看出某些想法是否與真理相違背。

CONCLUSION 結論

藉著耶穌，我們進入祂的家，祂也賜給我們豐盛的生命。耶穌是通往天父唯一的門。耶穌也是我們唯一應該跟隨的好牧人。外面仍然有很多流浪的羊需要回家。你願意去尋找他們並邀請他們回到耶穌的羊圈嗎？他們可能是你的家人、朋友、同學或同事。他們可能是為你剪草或修理房子的工人。他們也包括固定來參加我們教會聚會的福音朋友。在你告訴他們耶穌之前，你需要把他們告訴耶穌。換句話說，你需要為他們禱告。教會同工在走廊上放了一塊告示牌。我們開始了一項名為「加一計劃」的新行動。我相信你肯定認識起碼一位非信徒。你希望有一天他能得救嗎？請你把那個人的名字寫在一塊磁鐵上，然後把它貼在佈告板上。如果你不想寫全名，可以寫部份的名字、暱稱或縮寫。弟兄姐妹會和你一起為那些人禱告。期望神會給你機會與他們分享福音，並打開他們的心，讓他們準備好聆聽。我們彼此合作，我們也與神合作並帶領他們回來。如果他們中有人接受耶穌，我們會公開宣佈。你願意加入我們這項令人興奮的行動嗎？