

How The Thief Kills, Steals And Destroys

How life is supposed to work:

John 10:1-10

There is a Good Shepherd that **LOVES** and **CARES** about **US**.

There is an enemy that **LOVES** and **CARES** about **HIMSELF**.

Knowing the **VOICE** of the Shepherd is what **SEPARATES** those two flocks.

A Good Shepherd:

Knows each sheep **PERSONALLY**.

Will **LEAD** them, not **DRIVE** them.

Will give his **LIFE** for his **SHEEP**.

Promises an **ABUNDANT LIFE** for each sheep.

An abundant life is not a promise of **HEALTH**, **WEALTH** and **PROSPERITY**, but a **RELATIONSHIP** and **PURPOSE** beyond **CONTENTMENT**.

How life can end up working:

The enemy has a plan for each one of us that involves:

Stealing our **RELATIONSHIP** with **GOD**.

Killing the **ABUNDANT LIFE** that God has **PROMISED** us.

Destroying **EVERYTHING** that we were **CREATED** to be and do.

The way back home is simply **FOLLOWING** the **SHEPHERD'S VOICE**.

How The Thief Kills, Steals And Destroys

How life is supposed to work:

John 10:1-10

There is a Good Shepherd that _____ and _____ about _____.

There is an enemy that _____ and _____ about _____.

Knowing the _____ of the Shepherd is what _____ those two flocks.

A Good Shepherd:

Knows each sheep _____.

Will _____ them, not _____ them.

Will give his _____ for his _____.

Promises an _____ for each sheep.

An abundant life is not a promise of _____, _____ and _____, but a
_____ and _____ beyond _____.

How life can end up working:

The enemy has a plan for each one of us that involves:

Stealing our _____ with _____.

Killing the _____ that God has _____ us.

Destroying _____ that we were _____ to be and do.

The way back home is simply _____ the _____.

Food for Thought for the week of June 4, 2023

1. This weekend we reflected on how true disciples listen to the voice of Jesus and never stray from it, in the midst of the reality of verses like John 10:10. Chris reminded us that we have an enemy who would love nothing more than to steal our joy, kill our relationships and destroy our impact in God's kingdom.

This enemy takes delight when children of God are distracted, when we don't feel strong in our sense of purpose, or when we can't distinguish the voice of our Good Shepherd, Jesus. As you think about your own journey with Jesus, in what situations or seasons have you felt most discouraged, distracted, or defeated?

When you think back on those moments, what is your response to hearing there was an enemy who wanted you to feel that way, who was rooting against you?

Are there any common areas or tactics in your life you think the enemy uses to try to trip you up or get you to feel this way? In other words, frequent situations or triggers that repeatedly lead to you doubting your God-given purpose, losing your joy, or experiencing turbulence in your relationship with God or others.

2. Despite this enemy's determination to steal, kill and destroy, Scripture promises that he won't win the fight against children of God when we cling to the Lord's mighty power. Read James 4:7 and Ephesians 6:10-18. What phrases stand out to you or make you feel most empowered against the enemy's schemes?

James 4:7 New International Version (NIV)

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Ephesians 6:10-18 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Imagine you had an opportunity to tell someone where you stand, whose you are, what you're made of, and why the enemy won't defeat you. Reflecting on this weekend's message and these two passages, what would you say?