

Irresistible Call (Part 2)

Popular culture generally depicts sheep as cuddly, peaceful animals. Yet, those who have spent even a small amount of time around sheep know that they are stubborn, wayward, smelly, and sometimes even vicious. This truth makes Jesus' comparison to His followers as sheep all the more poignant. We, as sinners, possess all of these qualities, some in more abundance than others. Yet, the analogy finds its most power in our Good Shepherd's willingness to know us personally, to ensure our safety, and to bring us to His Father's house. This lesson explains that the call of Christ to follow Him, applied by the Holy Spirit, exhibits such amazing grace and kindness that it should pull our heartstrings perpetually.

I. Irresistible Call

a. John 5:25: Spiritual resurrection

i. Coming to faith in Christ involves the resurrection unto life and belief of a spirit dead in its trespasses.

ii. Like the resurrection of Lazarus, man cannot breathe life into his dead spirit, but only divine power can bring regeneration (John 11).

iii. Repentance and faith follow the Holy Spirit's work of regeneration.

b. John 6:37–44: Spiritual drawing

i. The Holy Spirit must draw individuals that the Father has chosen to Christ.

1. The Greek word for "draw" in this passage means "to drag by force."

2. The draw of the Holy Spirit occurs in conjunction with the new heart He places in the individual.

ii. This activity on the part of the Holy Spirit is sovereign, supernatural, and irresistible, bringing depraved men into the fold of Christ.

c. John 10: Sovereign calling

i. Verse 1: Jesus refers to the religious leaders of Israel in His days as "robbers" and "thieves" because they did not own the "sheep" of Israel.

ii. Verses 2–4: Jesus, the Good Shepherd, receives free passage into the sheep pen from the gatekeeper, wherein He calls to His sheep (believers), and they respond to His voice.

iii. Jesus' flock never dwindles or lessens, but all His sheep (Christians) will arrive home at the throne of God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Psalm 23; John 1:12–13; 3:3–8; 5:25; 10:1–5; 11; 17:2, 9, 19, 24; 19:30; Acts 11; Romans 8:29–30; Ephesians 2:1, 8–9; Philippians 1:29; Hebrew 12:2