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The Voice [John 10]

Peter Hiatt @ The Sanctuary Downtown
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(Prayer)

And so, Savior... keep saving me. Keep saving us. And we confess that we wander away, Good Shepherd. So help us to hear Your voice. Cause us to preach, Father, in Jesus' name. Amen.

... to hear Your voice.

What does God's voice sound like?

[Video Clip: "The Voice of God"]

God speaks to Moses, and maybe He spoke to King Arthur.
So what does God sound like, and has he ever spoken to you?

A young minister was being interviewed by a church board for the position of pastor. One old hard-working Irishman who was on the board looked at the young man sternly and asked, "Young man, did God send you here?"

He replied, "Well, I don't know if God sent me here. I am here trying to find the will of God and find out if you would like me for your net pastor." The board member replied, "Young man, did God send you here?" The young minister was somewhat at a loss for words, and came back again, "Well, I just stopped by to talk with the board ..."

The board member interrupted again and said, "Young man, did God send you here?" Finally, he screwed up his courage and said, "Well, I guess God didn't send me here. I just stopped by to see about the pastor position."

At that, the old board member leaned back in his seat and said, "That's good. The last four said that God had sent them, and we have had nothing but trouble with all four of them."

So ... who heard the voice of God?

Well, maybe God did speak to all four, and that's why they were trouble.
Or maybe God was speaking to the old board member.

You know, if you're applying for a job in a church, it can be helpful to list God as your first reference. And if you're a pastor in a church, you can get a lot done with the phrase, "God says..." Like, "God says you should give 10% of gross income, before taxes, to this church ... and if you don't, He'll fry you forever in hell." That's an effective fund-raising technique.

And if you can't find it in Scripture, it's helpful to try it some other way ... like, "In prayer, God told me the carpet in the narthex should be blue, and my office needs an air conditioner." That's helpful for pastors.

How do we hear the voice of God?

In seminary, I took a seminar on how to hear God's voice, and it was well-attended. I think someone read the story about Elijah in the cave or something, and then we all sat around and listened to the silence.

Someone said, "I'm like, getting a picture of a pillar."
And someone else said something like, "I see a cloud."
And someone else saw a duck or something
And the leader tried to piece it all together somehow.
I left thinking,

"Dang, was that the voice of God? Pillar duck clouds?
Or maybe, 'Duck, it's the pillar of cloud'!"

There's all sorts of seminars and courses you can take on "How to hear the voice of God."
Ten secrets... Five keys... How to hear.
And folks pay handsomely to get that knowledge... 'cause that's some valuable knowledge.

If you have knowledge of what's Good and Evil in any situation ...
If you comprehend God's Word at all times ...

You can just say, "God says..." at any time, and gain control all the time.

You might even be able to shape yourself in God's image ... and shape others too... if you could always say, "God says..."

But if God **didn't say**, that's called "Taking the Lord's name in vain." That has nothing to do with vocabulary, and everything to do with using the phrase "God says..." for your own purposes. Its false prophesy, punishable by death.

And yet if God did tell you to tell something to someone ... well, you'd better tell it.
Or like Jonah, you might get swallowed by a whale.
Or like Ezekiel, their blood will be on your head.

So, hearing God's voice is terribly important, but it can be profoundly stressful.

One day, when my son Coleman was a toddler, I told him that Jesus was inside him. So Coleman started talking to Jesus. When he didn't hear anything back, he put his fingers in his ears, and started yelling:

"Jesus, I can't hear you! Where are you? Jesus, I can't hear you! I can't hear you!"

For most of my life, I think I've felt just like Coleman. I've read the books, taken the classes, and still stand there with my fingers in my ears, yelling, "I can't hear you! Where are you?" And I'm a pastor. I'm supposed to like, preach God's Word.

For years, I used to pray, "God, I can't seem to hear your voice. So if I'm out of your will, would you please just like, break my arms? Break my arms."

Years ago, at a pastor's lunch in downtown Denver, I sat next to an old black Pentecostal pastor. I was fed up with trying to hear God, so I said, "How do you hear God? I'm not very sure that I do." He looked at me and said, "Well now, that's a very strange thing to say... For in John Chapter 10, Jesus says, 'My sheep hear My voice'."

The minute he said it, I panicked, and someone called the meeting to order. So all lunch and long after, I worried: "What if I'm not a sheep, because I don't hear the Voice?"

In John 10, Jesus is talking to the Pharisees. Having just healed the blind man, He says, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt. But now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

[John 10]

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him, the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them."

"All who came before?!" That would include Moses and David. Thieves and robbers are those who don't enter by the door. What's the door?

"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd.

In Psalm 23, David writes, "Yahweh is my Shepherd."

Ezekiel 34:15 – I AM that I AM says, "I myself will be the shepherd of the sheep."

And here, Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd." *Kalos* Shepherd – "The Beautiful Shepherd." Jesus is God, somehow ... OR insane ... OR has a demon.
He doesn't leave any other options.
He says, "I AM the Good Shepherd. I AM the Door."

Hebrews Chapter 10 tells us that His body broken **is** the Door; like the torn veil in the Temple is the door to the presence of God – the Holy of Holies.
Hebrews 10:20 – He is the "Living way."

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason, the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

There was again a division among the Jews because of these words.

They think they're judging Jesus' Word... but Jesus **is** the Word that is their judgment.

Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?" Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

At that time, the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

To equate hearing with believing, trusting, faith ... like faith is God's Word taking root in your heart.

"My sheep hear my voice."

He didn't say,

"My sheep really ought to hear my voice," or "If you hear my voice, then you are my sheep."

But, "My sheep hear my voice."

So maybe I should ask, "Am I His sheep?"

I mean, have I come to the door – the body broken and blood shed ... the cross?

Have I come with just a mustard seed of faith?

Acts 2:21 – *Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

Have I done that? Yep.

I'm one of His sheep, so I hear His voice.

Maybe I saw a burning bush, maybe it thundered, maybe the clouds parted... but more than likely, I heard and didn't know I heard. And that's why Jesus is telling me now.

Remember when Jesus asked Peter, "Who do you say that I am?"

Peter said, "You're the Christ, Son of the Living God."

I bet Peter thought, "Dang, I'm good. I figured it out."

But Jesus says, "Peter, flesh and blood hasn't revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven."

He heard the voice of God.

If you trust Jesus, you've heard the Shepherd.

And you may say, "That's weird, 'cause I couldn't tell you what He said!"

Well, that shouldn't surprise you – You're a dumb sheep following a smart Shepherd.

You know, I've obtained some cutting-edge scientific research, which reveals just what it is that a sheep hears when a shepherd speaks. Ready?

A sheep hears: "Blah blah blah blah ... Fluffy ... blah blah blah ..."

It turns out, sheep don't speak English. Or Hebrew.

And yet, they do recognize their shepherd's voice.

In Wyoming, they herd sheep with dogs, ATVs, and guns.

But in Palestine (verse 4), "The Shepherd goes before them, and the sheep follow."

They follow not because he gives them laws, directions, or a map.

They follow not because they understand or comprehend the shepherd's voice.

They follow because they **know** the shepherd's voice.

He goes to where he wants them to be and calls.

Sheep navigate by following a person.

This week, in staff meeting, Mary Etta shared about an experience she had in the Middle East.

She watched a young shepherd boy call his sheep. Immediately they all came running to where he stood. Then she tried the same thing, using the same words, and the sheep didn't even notice. They didn't know her voice.

Well, if you're His sheep, you've heard the Shepherd's voice. And yet, there are lots of voices in this world. How do you recognize His voice? How do you recognize anyone's voice? Do you take a class? You know, I've tried to find a class like that in Scripture, and I haven't found one.

But Jesus does say, *"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."*

"The Father and I are one."

That reminds me of John 1, where God and His Word are one:

[John 1]

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

God spoke His Word, and all things are created. And according to Hebrews, by the Word of the Son of God all things are sustained. The Voice of God is the Voice of Creation.

Remember this box that I'm holding? Imagine this box is the universe, and I'm God.

(singing)

"I got the whole universe in my hands... I got the whole universe in my hands."

Imagine I speak to the box: "Hey you people in the box! I love you guys!"

Well, everything in the universe would vibrate ... move to the sound of my voice.

But my voice wouldn't be a thing **in** the universe – the box ... it wouldn't be just one more voice among many voices.

Thank about why you followed Christ.

You might say, "Well...

I saw something in the beauty of Creation,
and I felt love from a friend,
and I read a book, looking for Truth,
and this hot chick was going on the Young Life retreat,
and I got sick, threw up, and talked to a counselor late at night,
and decided to follow Jesus,
and that's why I'm a Christian."

Well actually, that's not why you're a Christian.

You're a Christian because God decided to speak and everything moved:

Creation, friends, books, hot chicks, your stomach, and even your heart...

And “with the heart one believes.” (Romans 10:20)

God speaks and everything moves. Yet more than just moves, everything is created. Even physicists talk this way now. Everything is like, the manifestation of vibrations of meaning on super strings in the 12 to 24 dimensions of space time. Vibrations of meaning – *Logos*... like words.

Well, whether they’re right or wrong, God speaks His Word and everything is created – including me and my ears. How could anything not hear His voice? That’s the real miracle. Could God create something that could choose not to hear His voice?

In John 12, Jesus says, “Father, glorify your name.” And a voice booms from the sky, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” Some say it was a message. Others say, “No, it was thunder.” They heard, yet didn’t hear God.

Remember, in Mark 12, they ask Jesus which commandment is most important of all. He answers with Deuteronomy 6. Remember?

Answer: “Hear.” That’s the command. Imperative tense.
“Hear, Oh Israel – The Lord your God is one, and you will love (indicative tense).”
“Hear – God is One. He is Love, and you will love in His image.”

God speaks, “Hear.” What happens when God speaks? Creation happens.
“Hear and you will love.” But we don’t love much, and we’re just beginning to hear.
So we’re just now being created in the image of Love.
How? By the Word of God.

The voice of God is the Voice of Creation, and the voice of God is the Voice of Love.
“He who loves is born of God and knows God,” writes John.
“He who does not love does not know God, for God is Love.”
“... There is no fear in Love, but perfect Love casts out fear.” (I John 4:7, 8, & 11)

Love may begin with fear, but Love is not fear.
The voice of God is the voice of Love, and not fear.
And the voice of God is the Voice of Truth, and not lies, deception, and manipulation.
It is the voice of Light. “God is Light, and Jesus is the Light of the World.”

John 1:9 – “The True Light, which enlightens **everyone**.” John wrote “everyone.”
And if you’re a Pharisee, that’s the problem with the voice of God: You can’t control it, and it enlightens everyone. It can show up in a sunset, a baby’s cry, and a lover’s kiss. The Word of God can show up anywhere.

Pharisees like to say it can’t.
Pharisees like to judge the Word, and yet the Word of God is judgment.

John 12:47-48 – Jesus says, “I do not judge...” but “the Word that I have spoken will Judge on the last day.” To hear the Word is to be created in the image of Truth and Love. To not hear the Word is to not be created. It is judgment.

So asking, “How do I hear the voice of God?” is a little like asking, “How do I judge the Judgment?” Maybe we really don’t judge the Word of God, so much as the Word of God judges us... and yet we try to judge. We’re not the knife that cuts the Word – the Word cuts us. And when we try, we crucify the Word... Truth and Love – the New Creation.

We judge the Word according to our flesh. We say stuff like, “Well, that was the voice of God; ‘cause when I did that, my business took off, my wife came back, and everybody loves me. It was the Word of God, because it worked... for me.”

In Scripture, 11 of 12 guys followed the Word (The Good Shepherd). They were all poor and died horrific deaths, except John, who was exiled to a prison colony. The voice of God is judgment. It will cut you, even kill you ... that old you. And when you speak it, it will cut others, and you’ll feel like a fool. And yet you will be made in the image of God, and nothing’s better.

But in this fallen world, the perfected image of God is a man nailed to a tree. He is the Good Shepherd, and you are following Him. He is the Word of God – that person on the tree. The voice of God is a person. Do you get what that means?

That when you saw the sunset and muttered, “That’s beautiful,” it wasn’t just the weather – it was a person, calling to you.

And when you felt that Love in the auditorium at camp, it wasn’t just sleep deprivation – it was a person, calling to you.

And when you read the book and you were seeking the Truth, it wasn’t just print on a page – it was a person calling to you: “Seek me... Seek me. I AM Truth. I AM Love. And I AM your Creator.”

And when you sinned and felt convicted, and longed for Grace... well, you were being judged by a person, who is Grace.

The voice of God is a person. He’s bigger than all creation, and yet He makes Himself as small as a manger. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” And He’s still among us. He “will never leave us nor forsake us.”

So, Creation, Love, Truth, Judgment, and Grace are not abstract principles that we apply to our lives ... that we can learn in a class. They’re not just universal principles that make us all just the same. No. They are a Person who enters your world, stands in a place that He wants you to be, and calls your name. And you recognize His voice and follow.

The voice is one, and yet we each are different. So the Way is one, and yet revealed as countless roads in countless lives, countless sunsets, summer camps, books, and even failures. Especially failures. For that's where we meet Him and learn His name: The Word of God, Truth and Love, the Judgment of Grace, Who creates us in His image.

If you're His sheep, the Voice has entered your world, and is familiar to you. He's made Himself familiar. That's how you recognize a voice. He speaks your language. The Good Shepherd calls you by name. He is closer to you than your next breath.

A couple years ago, on my day off, my son Coleman and I explored the new sewer pipes under the Home Depot they were building a couple blocks from our house. We crawled a couple hundred yards in pitch black, in cement pipes buried deep underground. At one point, I quietly crawled ahead and stopped. Coleman followed, and after a while, Coleman said, "Dad, where are you?"

And I didn't answer.

"Dad, where are you?"

Soon he was yelling: "Dad! Dad! This isn't funny! Dad, where are you?!"

The darkness and the silence made him long for my voice.

He's a teenager. He doesn't always want to hear my voice. Now he did.

He was screaming, "Dad, where are you?!"

And honestly, I was like an inch from his face. I could feel his breath.

I let him scream and then he fell silent, and I said:

"Hey Coleman."

We still talk about that. It's one of the greatest memories that we share.

Seeking me and finding me, in the dark, closer than his next breath.

One day you'll go down a dark tunnel called death. They say each man must die his own death, alone. And yet, just about the time you think that's true – when the darkness closes in and you think you're utterly forsaken and alone – you'll hear a voice... a familiar voice... the voice you've longed to hear... the voice that knows you like no one else. And it will call your name.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish," said Jesus. "My sheep know my voice."

"Blah blah blah blah ... Peter ... blah blah blah."

You know His voice.

Well, what do you do when you're munching away in the valley, listening to "Blah blah blah blah blah," and another sheep turns to you and says, "Hey, I just heard the Good Shepherd say, 'Look to the Highlands. Come meet me on the hill'."?

I mean, what do you do with a talking sheep who knows English or Hebrew?

You be careful. It could be someone trying to get a job at your church... or some of your cash... OR it could be the voice of God. That's what Scripture calls "Prophecy," or a "Word of knowledge." All sheep hear the voice of the Shepherd, and yet some sheep – at certain times, as a gift from the Shepherd – can hear sentences and phrases, and see visions... all for the purpose of encouragement, strength, and comfort, writes Paul (I Cor 14). And to build up the whole flock.

If it weren't for some faithful people in this Body with that gift, I don't think I'd be here... or perhaps, even be alive. It's a beautiful gift. And yet, Scripture tells me that I must test every word, for I know the Shepherd's voice.

So I must ask: Is it the voice of

Creation or desecration,

Love or fear,

Truth or manipulation,

God's judgment of Grace, or the human judgment of control?

Is it the Shepherd's voice – the voice I know?

Often, in my experience, it really is. And so I've wondered why God doesn't speak like that all the time, and to everyone.

You know, if He spoke the same to everyone, we wouldn't have gifts to give to anyone.

And if He spoke like that all the time, we probably wouldn't seek Him any of the time.

And if He gave us a map, we might not seek the Person.

And if He gave us human words, we might not seek the Living Word.

And you know, no human word can capture the Living Word.

And yet we try. Religious people try. God's voice will come through a gift like prophecy or tongues, and religious people will argue: That's the only way the voice comes.

And God will speak through Scripture and religious people will say, "He only speaks through Scripture, and I've got the Scripture in my briefcase."

And God will speak through His Body – His people – and religious people will say, "He only speaks through His people ... Tradition, the Synagogue, the Church ... and we're the Church."

See? Pharisees think they own the Word, and control the map. Pharisees think they control God's voice, so only their lock can hear the voice. Jesus says, "My sheep hear the voice." The Pharisees try to control that voice, so they try to nail Him down.

They don't want to hear God's voice, they want to control God's voice. With knowledge of the voice, they defend themselves from the voice. With knowledge of the Good, they crucify the Person who is the Good.

See? If I have directions, if I have some laws, if I have a map... I don't need the person. Maybe I don't want the person. Thieves and robbers don't want the person. They take the map and break the door. Pharisees take the map and nail the Door – the person – to the tree. The Voice of God is Jesus.

So maybe the question isn't "Is God speaking?" Or "How can I hear His voice?" But, "Do I want to hear His voice? Do I trust Jesus?" That's the difference between sheep and goats. Matthew 25 – at the judgment, like a shepherd, Jesus will separate the sheep from the goats.

When we went to Israel a few years ago, we saw it all over the hills around Jerusalem: shepherds walking and talking... and behind each one would follow a flock of sheep. They wanted to be with the shepherd. And in front of each shepherd would be driven a flock of goats.

Sheep follow, and goats are driven with goads of fear. Both hear, in a way ... but only sheep want to follow.

Sheep are called, and goats are driven. And goats can't just choose to become sheep. And we can't just choose to want to follow Jesus. For a goat to become a sheep it needs to be, like... born again. Remember Paul? Jesus said, "Saul... Saul... it's hard to kick against the goads." Saul the Pharisee was a goat who became a sheep – he was born again.

Maybe I'm a goat **and** a sheep. An old man **and** a new man. I'm driven by fear **and** I follow in love. I need to confess the goat, and thank God for the sheep... the Lamb in me.

We can't just make ourselves want to follow Jesus. But Jesus can make us want to follow Jesus. He is the Word of God. All things are made through Him – even your faith. Faith is trust. Sheep trust the Shepherd. Trust is wanting to hear the voice of God.

Perhaps people are created by the Word, choosing not to hear the Word, so that they can meet the Word and choose the Word by Grace as Faith... So they can choose to love the Word in freedom. Remember ... we're predestined for freedom. All creation is a classroom for the soul that we might fall in love with the Voice of God, Jesus.

A few weeks ago, I told you about my Damascus Road experience, several years ago at a conference in Canada. God was doing amazing and miraculous things all around me, but not to me... or so I thought. I was in the dark.

By the last day of the conference, I had basically told God, “You speak to everyone else, but not to me. And if you do speak, I can’t hear you; So I’m leaving the ministry (to which I thought I’d been called).”

It was that afternoon that I heard what I told you about a few weeks ago – I heard God audibly in my head. He said, “Peter, you don’t love my Bride very much, do you?” And I knew exactly what He was talking about. It was judgment, yet it was Truth spoken in absolute Love, without blame. It was Grace, creating me in God’s image. I told you about that, but I didn’t tell what happened that night.

I went back for the evening worship, and I found the old Roman Catholic lady who had prayed for me that day. I said, “Look, I don’t fall down... but I’ll lay down, and you pray for me.” So she did. It started gradually at first – tingling in my finger tips... but then it spread through my whole body like electricity, coursing through me in waves.

I had my hands in the air in praise, and then I realized that I couldn’t move them. And I felt this pressure bearing down on them. I thought God was going to break my arms. I couldn’t figure it out at the time; but much later I remembered I used to always pray: “God, if I’m out of Your will, just break my arms.” You see, it’s comforting to know He can really do that. His rod and His staff, they comfort me.

Now, if that sounds frightening to you, let me say... I was filled with so much joy, I literally thought the joy might kill me. And my broken arms would be conclusive evidence for the existence of God. That was going on in my body, but far more was going on in my soul.

I said to the little old lady praying for me: “Jesus just called me a dork!” She said, “Oh, He wouldn’t do that.” And I thought, “Yes He would! He speaks my language. He knows me, and He was saying to me, ‘Peter, don’t be a dork. Stop doubting my love for you’.” It was like He pulled back the curtain and I saw that God was everywhere working and speaking to me... and He had been everywhere speaking in all my life through all creation.

Wherever I thought about Him, sought Truth, and believed Love, He was speaking, and I was hearing – As if all creation was God’s voice, causing me to see Jesus, who is God’s Voice.

And I didn’t need to worry about **how** to hear, but know I did hear, for I wanted to hear. In fact, when I’m driven in fear to hear, I don’t hear, because I’m stuck on me. But when I worship Jesus, I am hearing the Voice of God. He’s calling to me, “Peter, I love you. Come home. I am your home.”

So, how does the Good Shepherd cause us to be born anew? How does the Voice of God cause us to want Him – to see that He is good? The Word of God works all things together for the good. The Word of God arranges everything to show us this: That “the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”

All creation is a stage built by the Word of God, to cause you to trust the Word of God, to show you this: On the night the Word of God was delivered up, He took bread and broke it, saying “This is my body, given to you... Like a door. Take, and eat. And in the same manner, He took the cup, saying,

“This is the New Covenant in my blood, shed for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it, all of you, and do it in remembrance of me.

Behold, the Voice of God, through Whom all things are created – Truth and Love, God’s Judgment of Grace, Jesus the Christ and Him crucified.

See the Voice of God, trust the Voice of God, and be created by the Voice of God in His image. You cannot enjoy the New Creation until you learn to trust the Voice of the Creator. Apart from Him, you are literally nothing. Believe the Gospel, and worship.

(Benediction)

And so, do you want to hear the voice of the Shepherd? Jesus says He’s the Good Shepherd. The word in Greek, *Kalos*, can also be translated, “The Beautiful Shepherd.” He’s an attractive shepherd. Do you want to hear His voice? Then you do! Isn’t that cool?

And this is what it means... it means you can anytime, anywhere. You see, I get so stressed that I missed His voice somewhere... like we should have done this or we should have done that, or we shouldn’t have ... it just stresses me out! And I wonder, “Can I hear Your voice? And God, am I off the path? Have I messed everything up?”

But He’s the Good Shepherd. He didn’t say, “I’m the Anal Retentive Shepherd. I’m the Nit-Picky Shepherd. I’m the Grumpy Shepherd, and everything ticks me off.” He said, “I am the Good Shepherd. And at any point, Peter, you can call my name and you can be back on the path. Why? Because I am the Path.”

Even if you’re lost and the wolves are about to consume you, He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. And so wherever you are, whenever you are... whatever you’re doing, just call on Him. Worship Him, and you’re on the path. He is the Path. In Jesus’ name, believe the Gospel, and follow.