

I am the gate

(John 10:1-10)

Characters:

Narrator (Nar)

Shepherd (Shep)

Thief

Sheep 1 (Sh1)

Sheep 2 (Sh2)

Nar: Jesus was in the countryside. All around him were sheepfolds and pasture. He wanted to tell his disciples how they should follow him, so he told this story. Once there was a shepherd.

Shep: That's me.

Nar: and a thief who specialised in stealing sheep!

Thief: (sounding very sly) Err... that's me.

Nar: So ...

Thief: These look like nice sheep. Well fed, well cared for, well behaved. I'm sure I can take a few of these. But I'll have to climb into the sheepfold without being seen. That watchman looks a bit fierce to me.

Nar: So the thief found a quiet corner and climbed over the wall.

Thief: Come on little sheep, come to me. I'm very friendly you know, there's nothing to worry about.

Sh1: Did you hear something Mable?

Sh2: Not sure Gladys, what was it?

Sh1: I thought it was a voice.

Thief: Come on little sheep, come to me.

Sh2: Now you say so, I can hear something Gladys. It's not a voice I recognise though.

Sh1: Me neither Mable. I've never heard it before.

Sh2: Well let's ignore it Gladys. It's not our shepherd so it's nothing to do with us. Look there some really green grass over there. I'll race you to it!

Thief: Huh! Stupid sheep, they never listen to me!

Nar: But then the shepherd came along.

Shep: Mable, Gladys, come on, it's time to go and find some pasture.

Sh1: Hear that Mable. It's the shepherd!

Sh2: Too right it is Gladys! Come on, let's get going.

Sh1: I wonder where he will lead us today?

Sh2: Well it's bound to be somewhere nice, it always is!

Shep: Mable! Gladys!

Sh1&2: Coming!

Thief: Little sheep, little sheep ... (pause) ... well where have they all gone?

Nar: But the people didn't understand what Jesus was saying, so he said:

Shep: I am the gate to the sheepfold. Others have come and tried to pretend to be the shepherd.

Thief: Little sheep, little sheep, come to me! I won't hurt you!

Shep: But the sheep didn't listen to them.

Sh1: Hey, there's that voice again Mable.

Sh2: Ignore it Gladys, it's nothing to do with us!

Shep: I am the gate to the sheepfold. If you come into the sheepfold with me you will be saved. You will be free and find lush pasture.

Sh1: Look at all this green grass Mable!

Sh2: It's the greenest green I've ever seen Gladys.

Sh1: And it tastes wonderful!

Sh2: Ummmmm..... really wonderful!

Thief: Little sheep, little sheep!

Sh1: He doesn't give up does he Mable.

Sh2: You can say that Gladys, but nothing will make us stop following our shepherd will it!

Sh1: Not with pasture as green as this!

Shep: The thief comes only to kill and destroy, but I have come that you may have life and have it to the full!

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