

Theme: Jesus is the True Shepherd who brings abundant life, and He calls us to reach out to those trapped and oppressed by the thief.

## I. Intro – A Lot of Fun But.....

- A. It was great to be in Niger again
- B. The beauty of an African sunset
- C. The fun of unusual food
- D. Preaching in the villages
- E. Lots of kids!
- F. Bartering with salesman in Casablanca
- G. Dinner with good friends
- H. But that is not what the trip is about
- I. Reminded of why we fight Kingdom of Darkness

## II. The Thief and the Good Shepherd

- A. Note the strong dichotomy in this text
- B. Context: good shepherd vs. all others
  - 1. Not thru gate of Jesus – a thief (v 1, 7)
  - 2. Christ is gate, good shepherd – others thieves

## III. The Thief – Steal, Kill, Destroy

- A. The thief hates and comes for destruction (v10)
  - 1. He hates us, and wants to destroy us

2. His way is deception, destruction, depravity

## B. A brief caveat

- 1. Not about American culture; we have problems!
- 2. Not about Western Civ vs Islamic civ
- 3. Culture not neutral – outgrowth of beliefs

## C. The destructive nature of Islam

- 1. Islam & women – veils, well, grinding; divorce
- 2. No freedom – men praying; call to prayer; persecution
- 3. Islam and poverty – maps of Islam; poverty
- 4. Illiteracy – Muhammad; Koranic schools;
- 5. Lack of contribution - < 10 out of 750 nobel prize winners
- 6. Editorial by Munnoo Bhai, Pakistani Muslim
- 7. Spiritual darkness and death – eternally

#### IV. Christ – Abundant Life

- A. Christ has come to give abundant life!
- B. Christ bringing abundant life to Niger
  - 1. Women participate in church
  - 2. Preaching freedom to captives
  - 3. Literacy schools
  - 4. Medical, famine, relief work
  - 5. Matthew Parris article in Times
  - 6. The hope – pastors, Tamrorro, KK churches

#### V. Applying the Word

- A. Do you see the reality of spiritual warfare?
  - 1. Satan and his kingdom are real
  - 2. Satan hates humanity and works to oppress
  - 3. Billions are perishing without the Gospel
  - 4. Almost 2 Billion Muslims
  - 5. The battle is spiritual – not military (Eph 6:12)
- B. Do you see the abundant life Christ has given us?
  - 1. We have been blessed!
  - 2. Gospel access, financial, freedom, education, etc.
  - 3. We have been blessed to be a blessing

- 4. We must pass this blessing on – all times
- C. The call: run to the battle
  - 1. We must be focused outwards
  - 2. Don't be distracted by our “troubles” here
  - 3. CT Studd quote
  - 4. Engage in spiritual warfare
    - a. Pray for God's cause around the world
    - b. Give to God's cause around the world
    - c. Some of us must go – are you called?
- D. Prayer for Niger and the Muslim world

#### The Thief and the Good Shepherd: The Struggle Between Islam and Christ

John 10:10

February 22, 2009

Prayer for Niger

Psalm 67:1-2 paraphrase

Some wish to live within the sound  
of Church or Chapel bell;  
I want to run a Rescue Shop  
within a yard of hell."  
— C.T. Studd.