

Other Sheep I Have – John 10:16

Jesus was making this statement to Jews, as we will see, the other sheep were Samaritans and Gentiles who were to become part of the whole flock.

There are two different Greek words used in this one verse that help us to understand more fully what Jesus Christ was saying.

John 10:15 [New King James] *“As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”*

Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd was to lay down His life for all of the sheep.

John 10:16 [New King James] *“And other sheep I have which are not of this fold, [Greek word translated “fold” is “aule” meaning yard, court or hall, that is an enclosed place] them also I must bring, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock [Greek word translated “flock” is “pōlmue” meaning all sheep attended by one shepherd] and one shepherd.”*

Note Jesus did **not** say these other Gentile “sheep” were to be taken into the Jewish “fold.”

At the time Jesus Christ made this statement His disciples could **not** understand what He meant, for they considered themselves to be God’s **only** people, to the extent that Samaritans and all Gentiles were religiously abhorrent to the Jews.

It would be some while after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ before the disciples understood this statement of Jesus Christ.

Acts 10:44-48 [New King James] *“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ‘Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.”*

The fact that the Holy Spirit manifested Himself in these Gentiles, as He had on the disciples on Pentecost, [Acts 2:1-4] astonished Peter. But he submitted to what had happened in the same way as he did to the crowds on that Day of Pentecost, [Acts 2:38].

Acts 11:1-3 [New King James] *“Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, saying, ‘You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!’”*

The Jewish converts to Christianity still did **not** believe that Gentiles could become Christians unless they first converted to Judaism.

Peter had to explain all that had happened to him before the disciples would understand more fully what Jesus Christ had said about His sheep and He being the Good Shepherd, [Acts 11:4-18].

This bias attitude of Jews against Gentiles did not go away, for a major problem Paul had was to contend with Jews who insisted that Christians had to continue to obey the traditions of the Jewish leadership, [Acts 13:42-50; Acts 15:1-29; Acts 17:1-9; Acts 20:3, etc.]

To this day the vast majority of human beings, those who will eventually be called to be part of Jesus Christ’s flock as the Only Good Shepherd, are still blinded by Satan, [2 Corinthians 4:4] and increasingly hostile towards those who are part of Jesus Christ’s flock, true Christians.