

**Topic:** Abundant Life

### **Scriptural References**

John 10:1-21, Isaiah 43:1, John 15:13, John 9:38

### **Biblical Explanation**

The term abundance means the same thing today that it meant in Jesus' day, a full or large quantity. From SUVs to supersize food options, our culture likes things in abundance. But in John 10, Jesus reveals His desire for us to experience full or abundant life. An abundant life is not based on material wealth but a depth of relationship and intimacy with God. John 10 lays out some practical ways that we can go about experiencing all that Jesus Christ has to offer.

First we must acknowledge that there is only one way to heaven. While people have tried to buy their way to heaven through giving of tithes and offerings or earn their way to heaven through serving others these are futile means to experience eternal rest. Jesus is our access to heaven (John 10:3) and He leads us into the eternal presence of God. But be cautious of anyone that would make the gospel dependent on certain laws or expectations. The leaders in Jesus' day were called Pharisees (10:1) and they put laws on people that were hinderances instead of helps to people experiencing God. Today those things can look like requiring a dress code to demonstrate spiritual maturity, gauging spiritual maturity by the number of ministries you serve in, or even how often a person fast and prays. If done with the wrong posture and a lack of humility, these can be stumbling blocks for believers. Acceptance of Jesus as the only way and not one of many ways is central to understanding the abundant life (10:9).

It is central because as a follower, you are to follow Christ and Christ alone, and it is His voice that leads you. This is another key aspect to living an abundant life—knowing and following the voice of Jesus (10:3). His voice and guidance provide you the opportunity to respond in obedience but it also frees God up to care for you and see you prosper. God desires to see you thrive and flourish, and you following His voice puts you in positions to experience His blessings.

On the contrary, choosing not to listen to the Lord's voice means you are listening to Satan. Whether it is ungodly worldviews, thoughts, or just opportunities to ignore God and not act as He has prompted you—all are forms of rebellion. But God's people

not only resist Satan, we run from him, seeking to worship the Lord with our thoughts and actions and fleeing anything that tempts us not to. But we can do so because God knows us intimately and uniquely, by name (10:3). Isaiah 43:1 says, "But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." God knows you and wants to guide you. Will you listen?

Lastly you will note from John 10 that the abundant life God has in mind for us as believers is a communal experience. As much as you can, you should not live in isolation if you are a Christian that wants to experience life to the fullest. Sheep (10:11,15) throughout this text are referred to in the plural sense. It's as if Jesus is saying, I know my sheep, all my sheep, all y'all know my voice and I know all y'all by name. There is a unified experience where Jesus wants to uniquely guide and lead you, BUT you are a part of something bigger, a movement of people obediently being lead by the Shepherd. You are a part of His body, His army, His church and Jesus loves us so much that He gave His life for all of us (10:17).

### **Main Points**

- Abundant life is having an intimate and flourishing relationship with Jesus.
- Jesus is the only way to experience heaven and eternal glory.
- Avoid rules that might hinder you from growing in the faith.
- Jesus has placed in you an ability to know His voice and be lead by His voice.
- Satan seeks to harm God's people and use voices to lead us away from God's design and plan for our lives. Run!! Don't engage or submit yourself to ungodly teaching.
- Don't live in isolation, you were created for Christ and community.

### **Questions**

1. What type of rules or laws have you seen believers place on one another that could be a hinderance to the gospel?
2. How do you cultivate listening to the voice of God?
3. What areas in life are you more prone to listen to Satan? (Doubt, worry, arrogance, etc.)
4. What does it look like to flee from Satan?
5. What are the benefits to being a part of God's body?