

Scripture for 30 April 2023

John 10:1-10

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go 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.

Adaptations from gospel (R. Benson's *Venite*, page 223)

This is the way of the kingdom—

There was a man

 who was about to fire his steward for fraud.

He told the steward to prepare the accounts

 The steward said to himself:

“I am too old and weak to dig,

 and I am too proud to beg.

Where will my friends come from in the future?”

 So he called his master's debtors together,

And said to them:

 “I am leaving here and the accounts must be settled.

If you owe my master a hundred measures of oil,

 then pay fifty, and the debt will be cleared.

If you owe a hundred measures of grain,

 then pay eighty, and the debt will be forgiven.”

The debtors were well pleased with the steward,

 and even the master had to smile

at the steward's wisdom.

 If you have ears then hear what I tell you:

The measure that you give

 is the measure that you will receive.