

## 20. Giving Assurance

*Introduction: In the previous story Jesus demonstrated that he had a great power when he freed a man from many demons. After that many people liked him, and wanted to follow him.*

However, there were many religious leaders who did not like him. These religious leaders were always thinking of ways to give him trouble. They thought that if they could find mistakes made by Jesus, then they would trap him. (Luke 11:53)

Jesus said, "I am the good owner of sheep. The good owner is willing to die for the sheep. I know my sheep, my sheep also know me. (John 10:14–15)

"My father God loves me, because I am willing to lay down my life for my sheep. After I die, I can also take back my life. No one can take away my life. I myself give up my life. I have authority to lay down my life, and also I have authority to take it back." (John 10:17–18)

During this time, in Jerusalem there was a religious festival. Jesus came to the big temple. Many people surrounded him and asked him, "How much longer do you want us to wonder about you? Are you really the savior that God promised us?" (John 10:22–24) Then Jesus answered them, "I have already told you, but you do not believe me. In God's name, I have done many miracles as my proof; but you still do not believe me. You are not my sheep. If you are my sheep, you will obey me and follow me; and I will know you too. (John 10:25–27)

"Also, I will give my sheep a new life. This life will never end. Nobody can take them out of my hands. They are the ones my father granted to me. God and I are the same." (John 10:28–30)

When some people heard what Jesus said about himself, they picked up stones to throw at him. They said, 'You are only an ordinary man. How dare can you say that you and God are the same.'" (John 10:31–33)

Jesus said, "When I said I am God's son, you told me that I insulted God. But I am really doing my father's work. Even if you do not believe me, you should at least believe in the miracles I have done. When you see these things, can't you see that God is inside me, and also I am inside him?" (John 10:36–38)

No matter how Jesus explained it to them, they still did not believe, and wanted to find ways to catch him. But Jesus could always escape from them. (John 10:39)