

Vicarious Sacrifice: The Pharisees Are Described as Thieves Who Steal the Souls of Sheep Often through Religious Hucksters Who Communicate Only what Benefits the Dark Side: Faux Theology, Works, Human Good, & Evil; the Biblical System is Divine Good Accomplished by the Function of Spiritual Gifts, Application of Doctrine, & the Filling of the Holy Spirit

John 10:10 - “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

1. In this verse the Lord turns the emphasis away from Himself as the Door and back on the Pharisees as thieves. They are blind to His teachings and do not pick up on the fact they are again the subject.
2. Jesus refers to the Pharisee as a “thief”: *kléptēs*. The Lord is again using the same term for them that He did in John 10:1 and reiterates in 10:8.
3. He refers to Himself in verse 7 and 9 as the “Door,” and to the Pharisees in verses 8 and 10 as thieves.
4. The Lord is actually providing a play-by-play account of a battle being waged in the Invisible War. Lucifer has rallied his forces to cast doubt on Jesus’ miracle that enabled the blind man to see.
5. Those that believe the lie must always renounce truth when expressed by those who have been influenced by it.
6. Religious hucksters call themselves “fishers of men” when in reality they are “trolling for victims.” By quoting Scripture out of context they use fear and guilt to lure many into their nets.
7. These “evangelists” try to impress with their over pronunciation of words whose content is profound to the benighted but glibbery¹ to the wise.
8. This strategy is stated by the Lord in a negative way with the words, “The thief comes only”
9. The verb “comes” is the customary present active indicative of *ἔρχομαι* (*érchomai*): “to approach by moving toward.” Thieves will advance on a “prospect” when they discern he is vulnerable to the lie or has expressed interest in the truth.
10. The customary present denotes that which habitually occurs or may be reasonably expected to occur. The indicative mood presents this as a fact.
11. But the idea of a thief coming toward a sheep is preceded by the negative conjunction *οὐκ* (*ouk*): “not only.”
12. A thief comes only to do things in opposition to the grace plan of God. The allurements he uses to attract the target away from grace is the imposition of fear, guilt, and sin.
13. Therefore, the thief only comes to a sheep to do things that are only advantageous to the Dark Side. The Lord provides a checklist introduced by the conjunction “but” and the aorist active subjunctive of the verb *κλέπτω* (*kléptō*): “to steal.”
14. How does the thief steal the souls of sheep? By structuring a faux theology that draws upon biblical concepts but incorporates them into a system of works that results in human good and evil.

¹ “There’s a dialectal glibbery, “smooth, slippery, not trustworthy” (J. N. Hook, *The Grand Panjandrum*, rev. ed. [New York: Collier Books, 1991], 144). “Shifty, untrustworthy” (*Oxford English Dictionary*, s.v. “glibbery”).

15. Today, theological charlatans quote Scripture, almost always from the English, usually out of context, in order to solicit the response beneficial to them.
16. Pastors do this with the intent of inspiring an entire congregation to function in lockstep as one in the erroneous application.
17. The application often has to do with getting involved in worldly problems as if, with concerted effort, they might be solved.
18. The correct system is to teach doctrine to the sheep; build an inventory from which each may draw guidance and direction first of all for his own life's improvement and then, later – much later – have invisible impact on others.
19. Each believer must be under the filling of the Holy Spirit to accomplish anything of value. Christianity is designed to develop trained sheep who know the Word and can function independently within the context of their personal lives.
20. If you see someone in need and are motivated to assist, this is your contribution under the leadership of the Spirit. If you see a goat that you are led to recruit for the sheepfold, under the direction of the Spirit, convey information about salvation through faith in Christ.
21. Each individual may or may not be able to contribute to organizations that promote honorable causes such as a variety of 501 (c) 3, not-for-profit organizations, local churches, and a host of charities.
22. Often a person's spiritual gift determines what he is led to do in the area of Christian service. When each member of a church discovers his or her spiritual gift then that congregation functions as a body, individual parts contributing to the impact of the whole.
23. Thieves in pulpits distort this into the entire congregation being told to do what the hot topic is for the month or year. Teach doctrine and as the sheep grow, each will do all year what the Holy Spirit encourages without the need for programs or Stewardship Sundays.
24. Some faux theologians steal the souls of potential sheep. They also are said by our Lord "to kill," the aorist active subjunctive of **θύω (thúō)**: "to kill in the act of making a sacrifice."
25. This killing includes the regular animal sacrifices associated with many of the Levitical offerings and the demonic sacrifices of humans in the heathen cults in which the Israelites often became involved.
26. Jesus is the Passover Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. He is the sacrificial sheep typified in the ritual of Yom Kippur.
27. The animal sacrifices are no longer necessary because of Jesus' fulfillment of what the rituals portrayed.