

July 24, 2016

Series: But God

Sermon Title: *Choosing Abundant Life*

Key Scripture:

John 10:10 (NRSV)

¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it ABUNDANTLY.

The Key:

Abundant life through the giver of life.

Main Scripture:

John 10:1-10 (NRSV)

¹“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. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

Can you **HEAR** it?

ἀκούει,

John 10:3 (NRSV) ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep HEAR his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

John 18:37 (NRSV) ³⁷Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth LISTENS to my voice.”

The Mission of Clearbranch UMC is
to ENGAGE people through relational ministry,
to EQUIP disciples for Christ and
to EMPLOY their gifts through missions.

1 John 4:5-6 (NRSV) ⁵They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world **LISTENS** to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God **LISTENS** to us, and whoever is not from God does not **LISTEN** to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

1 Kings 19:11-13a (CEB) ¹¹The Lord said, “Go out and stand at the mountain before the Lord. The Lord is passing by.” A very strong wind tore through the mountains and broke apart the stones before the Lord. But the Lord wasn’t in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake. But the Lord wasn’t in the earthquake. ¹²After the earthquake, there was a fire. But the Lord wasn’t in the fire. After the fire, there was a **SOUND. THIN. QUIET.** ¹³When **ELIJAH HEARD IT**, he wrapped his face in his coat.

Will you **FOLLOW** it? ἀκολουθεῖ,

John 10:4-5 (NRSV) ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep **FOLLOW** him because they know his **VOICE.** ⁵They will not **FOLLOW** a stranger, but they will **RUN FROM** him because they do not know the voice of strangers.”

John 1:43 (NRSV) ⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “**FOLLOW ME.**”

John 21:19 (NRSV) ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “**FOLLOW ME.**”

John 21:22 (NRSV) ²²Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? **FOLLOW ME!**”

Have you **ENTERED IN?** εἰσέλθῃ,

John 10:9 (NRSV) ⁹I am the gate. Whoever **ENTERS** by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

John 10:10 (NRSV) ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it **ABUNDANTLY.**

Challenge Questions:

How will you listen for God's voice this week?

What do you need to give up to follow more fully?

How are you entering Christ's abundance?

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to **EQUIP** disciples for Christ and
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The Vision of Clearbranch UMC is Transformed Lives offering the Transforming Love of Christ.