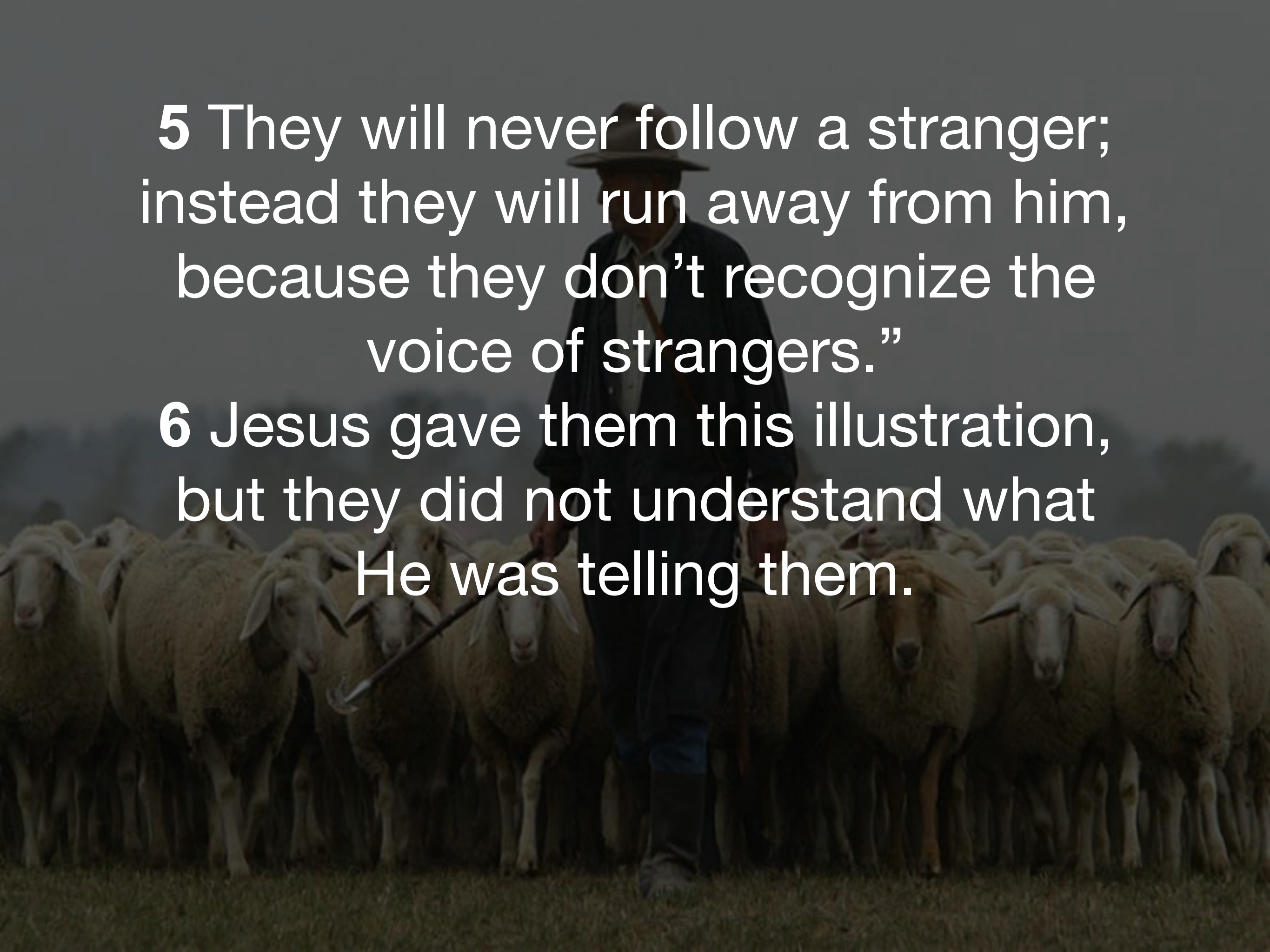

A shepherd wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, a dark tie, and a wide-brimmed hat is walking through a field of sheep. The sheep are white and appear to be following him. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with some trees in the distance. The overall tone is calm and pastoral.

10 “I assure you: Anyone who doesn’t enter the sheep pen by the door but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. **2** The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** The doorkeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they recognize his voice.

A shepherd wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a dark suit jacket stands in a field with a large flock of sheep. The scene is dimly lit, possibly at dusk or dawn. The shepherd is holding a long staff. The sheep are clustered around him, some looking towards the camera.

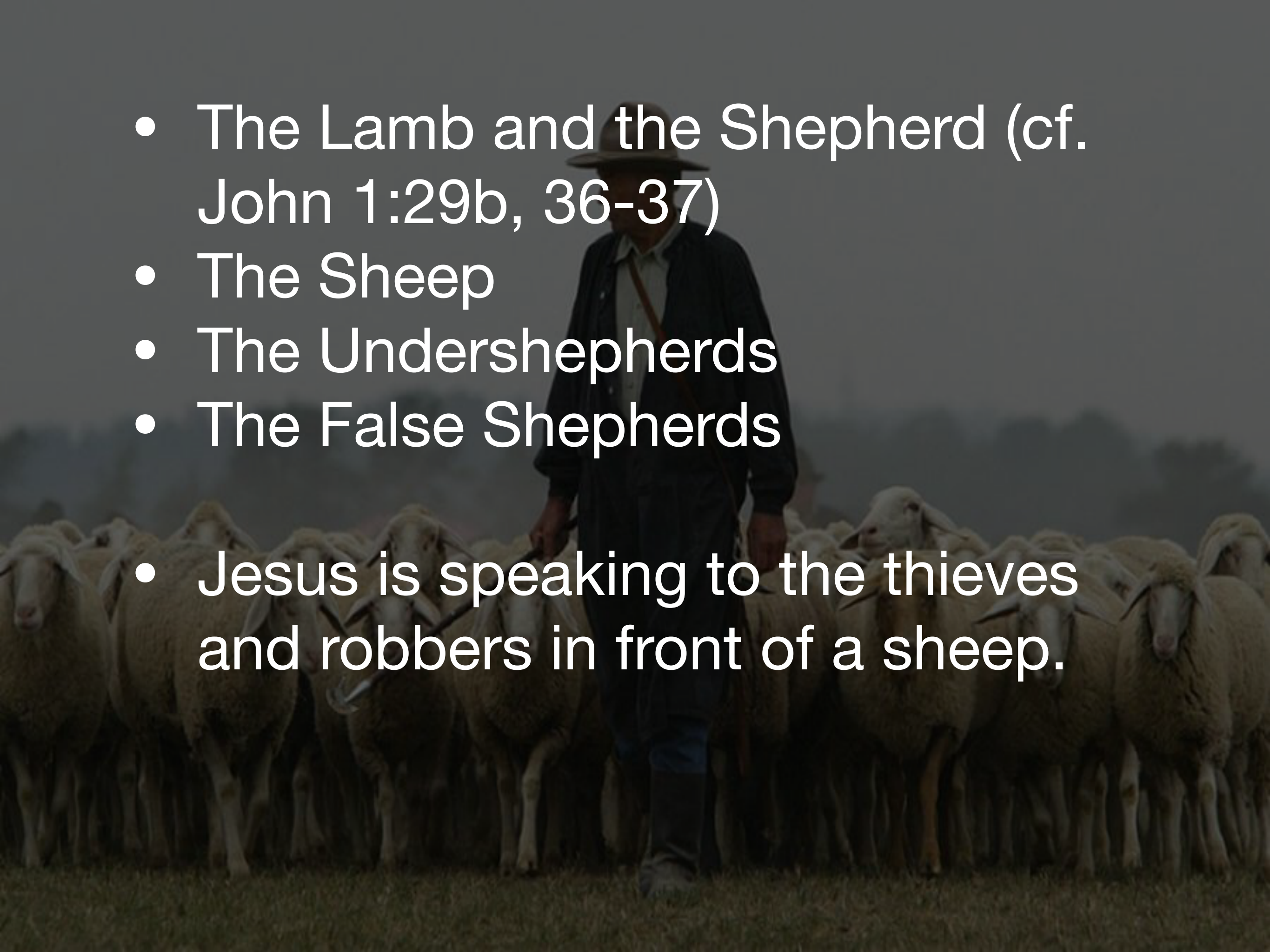
5 They will never follow a stranger; instead they will run away from him, because they don't recognize the voice of strangers.”

6 Jesus gave them this illustration, but they did not understand what He was telling them.



The Shepherd, the Sheep, and the Sheep Pen.

John 10:1-6

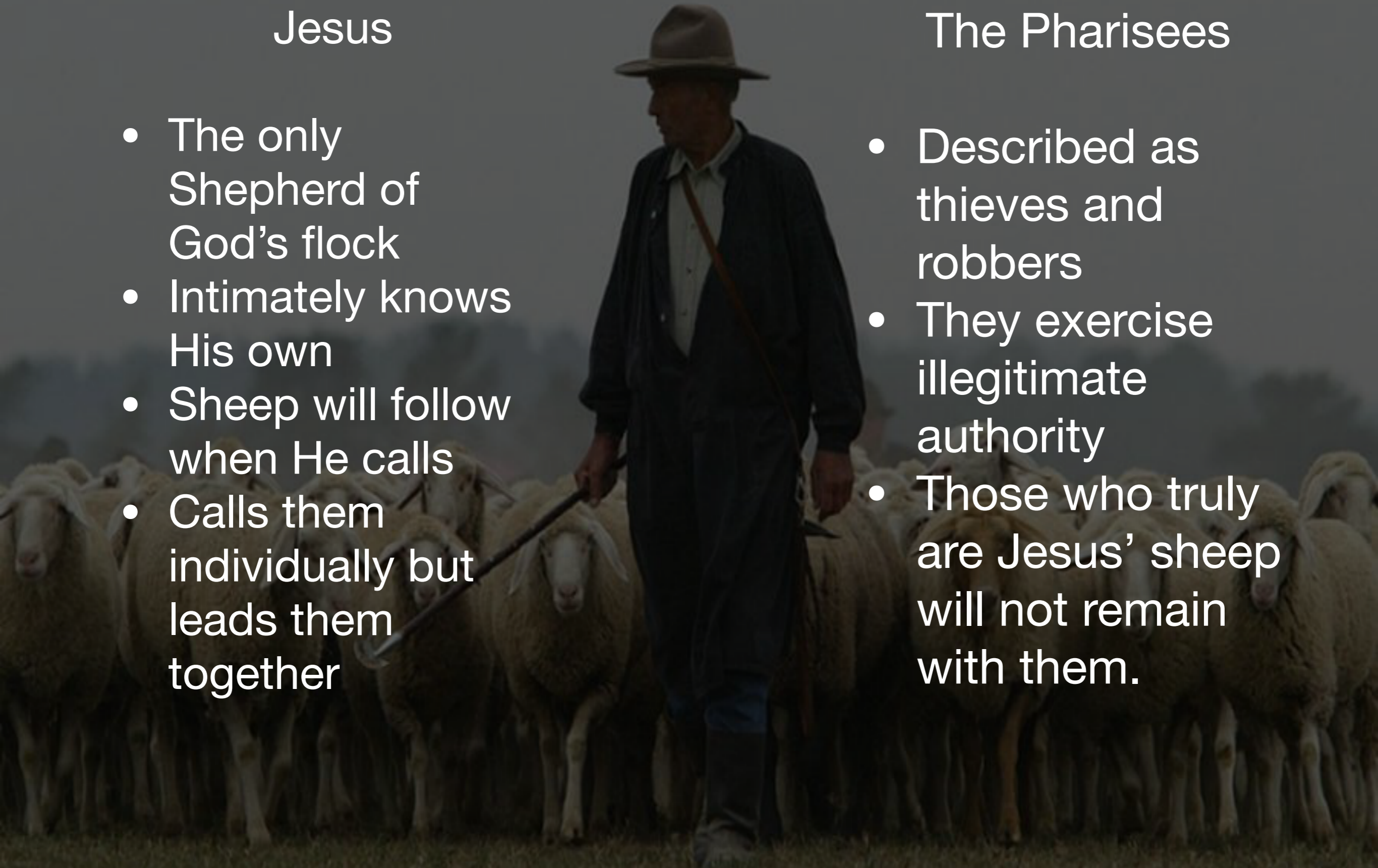
- 
- A shepherd wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a dark jacket is walking through a field of sheep. The scene is dimly lit, possibly at dawn or dusk, with a soft, hazy background. The sheep are clustered around the shepherd, and the overall atmosphere is quiet and pastoral.
- The Lamb and the Shepherd (cf. John 1:29b, 36-37)
 - The Sheep
 - The Undershepherds
 - The False Shepherds
 - Jesus is speaking to the thieves and robbers in front of a sheep.

Jesus

- The only Shepherd of God's flock
- Intimately knows His own
- Sheep will follow when He calls
- Calls them individually but leads them together

The Pharisees

- Described as thieves and robbers
- They exercise illegitimate authority
- Those who truly are Jesus' sheep will not remain with them.



Ezekiel 34

Wicked Shepherds only take care of themselves at the expense of the flock (Ezekiel 34:2-3)

They do not strengthen the sheep, care for their hurting, seek for the lost, maintain the unity of the flock, nor protect them from threats. (34:4-6)

The Lord is against them, will judge them, and not let them remain as shepherds. (34:7-10b)

The Lord himself will search for, rescue, and shepherd HIS flock abundantly and with integrity (34:10c-16)

The Lord will separate the rams (sheep) from the selfish goats (34:17-19)

Wicked shepherds also referred to as gluttonous sheep (34:20)

There will be one princely shepherd of YHWH's flock, the Davidic servant/Messiah (34:23-24)

- [Jeremiah 3:15-17](#): God will provide faithful shepherds (plural) when he gathers all nations, with changed hearts, to his throne.

- [Jeremiah 23:1-6](#): Woe to the wicked shepherds; the Lord will gather his remnant flock with faithful shepherds (plural) and have the Righteous Branch of David as king over them (chief leader).

Undershepherds are at their best when they open doors for others to better follow Jesus.

Sheep must discern critically their Shepherd's voice and then follow simply.



We are called by Jesus individually, but we are formed into a flock.

May the Lord give us ears to hear and hearts to obey His voice.

