

Behold the Lamb

# THE GOOD SHEPHERD

## JOHN 10:1-16

Text: John 10:11

### **John 10:11**

<sup>11</sup> *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

Introduction:

"Two men were called on, in a large classroom, to recite the Twenty-third Psalm. One was a published orator trained in speech technique and drama. He repeated the psalm in a powerful way. When he finished, the audience cheered and even asked for an encore that they might hear his wonderful voice again. "Then the other man, who was much older, repeated the same words--'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want...' But when he finished, no sound came from the large class. Instead, people sat in a deep mood of devotion and prayer.

"Then the first man, the orator, stood to his feet.'I have a confession to make,' he said. 'The difference between what you have just heard from my old friend and what you heard from me is this: I know the Psalm, my friend knows the Shepherd.'"

Of the many images painted by John in his wonderful Gospel, probably the most descriptive is that of the Lord as the Good Shepherd. For like a shepherd, the Lord is concerned with the welfare and the care of His sheep. As the Lord delivered this sermon, on the heels of healing the blind man at the Temple, He clearly declares His identity and plainly states His purposes and plans. In these verses, we can see the heart of the Lord on display. Here, He reveals His great love for sinners and His plan for dealing with their sin.

I would like to ask this evening, “Do you know the Shepherd?”

Let’s look this evening at “The Good Shepherd.”

## **1. THE GOOD SHEPHERD CALLA HIS SHEEP BY NAME (VS. 10:3, 14, 27)**

### ***John 10:3***

<sup>3</sup> *To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.*

### ***John 10:14***

<sup>14</sup> *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*

**John 10:27**

*<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

A. He Knows My Name and He Knows Me

It was customary, and is still, we are told by travelers, for shepherds to give particular names to their sheep, by which they soon learned to regard the voice of the shepherd.

There may be several flocks sharing the same sheepfold. However, when the shepherd of the sheep walks up to the door and calls his sheep, they instantly recognize his voice and respond to him. They know his call.

Illustration:

A man in Australia was arrested and charged with stealing a sheep. But he claimed emphatically that it was one of his own that had been missing for many days. When the case went to court, the judge was puzzled, not knowing how to decide the matter. At last he asked that the sheep be brought into the courtroom. Then he ordered the plaintiff to step outside and call the animal. The sheep made no response except to raise its head and look frightened.

The judge then instructed the defendant to go to the courtyard and call the sheep. When the accused man began to make his distinctive call, the sheep bounded toward the door. It was obvious that he recognized the familiar voice of his master. "His sheep knows him," said the judge. "Case dismissed!"

B. He Knows My Need (Rom. 8:28-30, Phil. 4:19)

**Romans 8:28-30**

*<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

**Philippians 4:19**

*<sup>19</sup> But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

He knows exactly what I need and when I need it.

He is my supplier, my sustainer, and my satisfier. His plans for me are all for my good and His glory!

## 2. THE GOOD SHEPHERD LEADS HIS SHEEP (VS. 3)

### **John 10:3**

<sup>3</sup> *To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.*

#### A. He Leads Us In His Way

### **John 14:6**

<sup>6</sup> *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

### **Psalms 37:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.* <sup>24</sup> *Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.*

### **Psalms 86:11**

<sup>11</sup> *Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.*

We must be led, we can't find our way on our own!

#### B. He Leads Us In His Will

### 3. THE GOOD SHEPHERD GOES BEFORE US

#### **John 10:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> *And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.* <sup>5</sup> *And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.*

#### A. He Guides

He goes before me and I follow Him. I must follow Him in all areas of my life. The Lord said in John 12:26:

#### **John 12:26**

<sup>26</sup> *If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.*

#### B. He Guards

The Lord protects our steps and provides our strength.

Quote:

"Unless there is within us that which is above us, we shall soon be consumed by that which is about us."  
Unknown

### **1 Peter 2:21-25**

<sup>21</sup> For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: <sup>22</sup> Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: <sup>23</sup> Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: <sup>24</sup> Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. <sup>25</sup> For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

## **4. THE GOOD SHEPHERD PROVIDES LIFE**

### **John 10:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. <sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

## 5. THE GOOD SHEPHERD LAID HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP

### **John 10:15-18**

<sup>15</sup> *As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.* <sup>16</sup> *And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.* <sup>17</sup> *Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.* <sup>18</sup> *No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

A. He Laid Down His Life By His Own Power (vs. 17-18)

### **Matthew 20:28**

<sup>28</sup> *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

B. He Laid Down His Precious Love (vs. 13)

### **John 15:13**

<sup>13</sup> *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

## **Romans 5:8**

<sup>8</sup> *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

## **6. THE GOOD SHEPHERD KEEPS HIS SHEEP**

### **John 10:28-30**

<sup>28</sup> *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.* <sup>29</sup> *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.* <sup>30</sup> *I and my Father are one.*

#### **A. We Are Kept By of His Power (vs. 29)**

### **1 Peter 1:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,* <sup>4</sup> *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,* <sup>5</sup> *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

#### **B. We Are Secure Because of His Promise (vs. 28)**

### **Romans 8:35-39**

<sup>35</sup> *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or*

nakedness, or peril, or sword?<sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.<sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.<sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,<sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **John 5:24**

<sup>24</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

### **John 6:37-40**

<sup>37</sup> All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.<sup>38</sup> For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.<sup>39</sup> And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.<sup>40</sup> And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Close:

We have a Good Shepherd today? We no longer must wander aimlessly through this life, but can be led by His nail-scarred hand!

Are we following closely our Shepherd today, or do we need to draw closer to Him?