



## “I Am The Good Shepherd” ~ October 14, 2018

### OPEN

What is your personal experience with sheep?

Have you ever observed a shepherd at work with a flock of sheep?

### DIG

When Jesus stated that He is the Good Shepherd (John 10:14) He used an image that was familiar to His Jewish listeners.

- God is revealed in the Old Testament God as a Shepherd – see Psalm 80:1
- Leaders within Israel were described as shepherds – see Psalm 78:70-72

In the New Testament we are shown the way in which a flock of sheep represents need – consider these passages – Matthew 9:36; 10:6,16; 26:31

With this in mind, read through **John 10:11-18**

#### A. I am the Good Shepherd – how does the Shepherd relate to the sheep?

What are the characteristics of shepherding that convey the character of Jesus towards His followers? Consider three essential aspects...

1. Faithful stewardship over each member of the flock - verses 12-14
2. Sacrificial involvement with each member of the flock - verses 1, 15, 18
3. Unifying presence among each member of the flock - verse 16

The shepherd is absolutely essential to the welfare of the flock. Read John 10:10 and consider – is it possible for someone to have a flourishing life apart from a relationship with Jesus?

#### B. You are the flock – how should the sheep respond to the Shepherd?

How does Jesus address His followers in Luke 12:31-32?

In what ways are Christians like a flock of sheep?

What does the phrase “My own know me” (verse 14) tell us about the kind of relationship the sheep should have with Jesus, the Good Shepherd?

How can you, as a follower of Jesus, become better acquainted with Him, in light of His role as your Good Shepherd.

#### C. You are the flock – how should the sheep relate to the other sheep?

Read John 10:16. Israel, God’s flock, needed to realize that God would bring “other sheep” – from all nations – to follow Him. What does this teach us about how we welcome and embrace people into our church?

What does it mean for sheep to be “under shepherds” with Jesus. Read Acts 20:28 and 1 Peter 5:1-2 to see how Paul and Peter instructed leaders in the early Church to be co-shepherds with Jesus.

To explore this further, check out a short video, “[What Is Biblical Eldership?](#)” by author and teacher Alexander Strauch. He suggests there are five important responsibilities of eldering or shepherding. This work is primarily “pastoral work” which in its root meaning means shepherding.

- ✓ Teaching    ✓ Protecting    ✓ Leading    ✓ Managing    ✓ Healing

### REFLECT

What are some specific ACTION STEPS that you can take in order to better follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd?

1. It is essential for sheep to be meaningfully engaged with the flock. Consider joining a **Home Group**. A group of about a dozen fellow Christ followers provides the best relational context for growing your relationship with Jesus.
2. We cannot follow our Shepherd if we do not listen to Him. Consider joining a **Prayer Group** where you can listen to Jesus with fellow believers.

*“Discernment is an ever-increasing capacity to “see” or discern the works of God in the midst of the human situation so that we can align ourselves with whatever it is that God is doing.”*  
(Pursuing God’s Will Together by Ruth Haley Barton)

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

**Thank God for being your Provider**

*He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.*

**Thank God for being your Guide**

*He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.*

**Thank God for being your Righteousness**

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

**Thank God for being your Protector**

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.*

**Thank God for being your Sustainer**

*Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

**Thank God for being your source of everlasting life**