

**22- I AM the Good Shepherd**

**John 10:11-21**

*Joh 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. 12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. 13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. 15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 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. 17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 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. 19 There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings. 20 And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? 21 Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?*

**I- The Good Shepherd Illustration:**

In John chapter ten eighteen time's statements are made in reference to the Shepherd. The Jewish hearers would have immediately understood the story of the sheep and the sheepfold. Jesus has just told them He is the door of the sheep fold. Now He tells them that He is the Good Shepherd. *Gen 49:24; Ps 23, Ezek 34* gave the Old Testament Jews the background of

understanding for this from a biblical standpoint. Out of daily life Jesus reaches up and plucks a lesson out of life. Jesus said He was, and is, "*the Good Shepherd.*"

The prophets were compared to shepherd. We could focus on the Hirelings, which are different from those who are trying to sneak in *10:1*. Many understand that He was speaking in reference to the Pharisees & Scribes. *Ezek 34* contains some strong rebukes to the spiritual leaders in Ezekiel day. If we did this we would be focused on the negative. I do not wish to do this. Let's look at the things that make Him the Good Shepherd. Remember *Ps 23:1* says *The LORD is my shepherd; / shall not want.*

**II- Good Shepherd Knows His Sheep:**

**John 10:14 "I know my sheep"**

The Psalmist said, "*The Lord is my Shepherd*" *Ps 23:1* was written with a shepherd heart both toward God and as a shepherd toward his sheep by David.

The other implication about knowing here is not only does the Shepherd knows the sheep the sheep know the shepherd.

Years ago the boys and I were on a mission project to a Kentucky Baptist college called Clear Creek. Clear Creek was about a two hour drive from home then.

Joyce was not with us but came up for the afternoon. Daniel came running out of the building when she pulled us. He said he knew it was her because of the sound of the car.

A baby will turn to look at his or her mother or father or someone who gives them care by the sound of their voice.

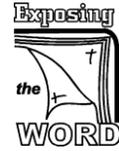
The Shepherd also knows our innermost thoughts. The world don't feel comfortable



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with such knowledge. *Matt 10:30 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered."*

*Luke 12:7 "But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows. "*

In a world that is becoming so impersonal and so in which many time we are assigned a number, it to good to be known by the name your mammy and daddy named you. Thank God, in heavens we are known by our name.

*John 10: 27 "My Sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me..."*

Jesus said in *John 10:5 "...a stranger they will not follow."* As I have previously pointed out, I understand that the only time a sheep will follow another shepherd is if it is sick. Countless stories are told of sheep of several heard being mingled at watering holes but when a shepherd calls only his sheep will follow. How can this be so? The sheep from the time they are small are with the shepherd. The shepherd from the time they are small are with the sheep. Remember David was the youngest but he was the shepherd.

I have already related the story told about a shepherd that broke the leg of one of his sheep. When they asked him why he said, the sheep will not listen to my voice so I broke its leg. After I nurse it back to health by giving it water and food for many days it will always hear my voice and know me. Perhaps God needs to break a few legs.

### **III- Good Shepherd Protects Sheep:**

All the way through this story protection is implied. Sheep are defenseless animals. Most of the land used to raise sheep was close to the wilderness where wolves, lions and other predatory animals lived. He said that the hireling would run away rather than

fight and risk harm or death. The true shepherd protected the sheep even at his own risk.

The Psalmist says, *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Ps 23:4*

The shepherd's equipment was very simple. It usually consisted of a scrip, sling, rod and staff. The *scrip* was a small bag of animal skin in which he would carry bread, dried fruit, olives and cheese. The *sling* is very familiar to us because of the story of David and Goliath. The sling was a weapon. The shepherds were very accurate with these slings. They not only used them as a weapon but would throw stones in front of a wandering sheep to warn him to turn back. The *rod* was like the shepherds cane with the crook on the end. He would used it to pull a sheep from distress or to pull one back who was wandering away. The *staff* was a wooden club with nails on the end of it. A piece of leather hung it from the shepherds belt.

The shepherd was equipped to defend and protect the sheep. Remember what David said to Saul as he was getting ready to face Goliath.

*1 Samuel 17:34-36 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: 35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. 36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.*



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## IV- Good Shepherd Gives His Life for Sheep

*Joh 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

*Joh 10:15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

Notice He lays it down, it was freely given for the sheep. *John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."*

*The hirelings* remember ran away but the true shepherd protected the sheep. This is such a picture of Christ. Christ said, *"Therefore my Father loves me because I lay down my life."*

*Php 2:6-11 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

He had, as you will notice, power to lay it down and power to take it up again.

## V- Good Shepherd Cares for His Sheep

Lets return to *Ps 23:2ff "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake... Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head*

*with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:"*

Without God life is dry and meaningless. God leads us into refreshment of soul. We must seek to know and hear His voice.

## VI- A Couple of Questions:

*Joh 10:16 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.*

**1- What about the other sheep?** Is this the Mormons? Not at all. Remember He is speaking to the Jews. The other sheep here is the Gentiles.

*Eph 2:11-13 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

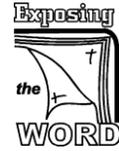
*Eph 3:3-6 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:*



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**2- Why the Controversy? Joh 10:19-21** *There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings. 20 And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? 21 Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?*

*Joh 10:30-33 I and my Father are one. 31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? 33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.*

The Pharisees understood that they were the hirelings who were not interested in anything but their own well being. Jesus has revealed them for who they were. He also was claiming to be God and that He and God were one. Jesus by the actions of the Good Shepherd certainly was and is verified for us. *Joh 10:33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.*

## VII- The Chief Shepherd Shall Appear:

Notice with me now *Joh 10:28-30 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and my Father are one.*

Jesus said He gave His sheep eternal life and security of their souls. We will revisit this in our next session but allow me to give a few parting words for the Scriptures.

The psalmist said, *"and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." 23:6*

*Heb 13:20 "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,"*

*1 Pet 5:4 "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."*

*1 Pet 2:25 "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."*