

# The Good Shepherd

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*John 10:11-18*

## INTRODUCTION

- A. "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want."
  - 1. Those words have provided comfort for many.
  - 2. Yet, the whole truth is that Jesus is the "good" shepherd.
    - a. "Good" here carries the idea of "noble" or "worthy."
    - b. Hence, Jesus is the "noble" shepherd.
- B. Let's look and see how Jesus is the good shepherd.

The Good Shepherd would:

## BREATHE HIS LAST FOR THE SHEEP, vv. 11-13

- A. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep, v. 11.
  - 1. A good shepherd is willing to give his life for the sheep.
  - 2. Such sacrifice is often necessary for shepherds.
    - a. David killed both lion and bear when they attacked his sheep (1 Sam. 17:34-36).
    - b. A shepherd would rescue from the mouth of a lion "two legs or a piece of an ear" (Amos 3:12).
  - 3. This sacrifice is "for" the sheep, i.e., on their behalf.
    - a. Jesus died for us because we couldn't save ourselves (Is. 53:5).
    - b. Illustration about grenade, *Sermons on the Cross*, p. 25.
- B. The hireling does not lay down his life for his sheep, vv. 12-13.
  - 1. The hireling does not own the sheep--it's no skin off his teeth if they get killed.
  - 2. The hireling sees the wolf coming and flees.
    - a. The hireling is concerned about himself, not the sheep.
    - b. The wolf comes and destroys the sheep.
  - 3. The hireling doesn't care for the sheep.
    - a. He has demonstrated his lack of concern for the sheep by fleeing.
    - b. Jesus, on the other hand, does care for the sheep.
- C. Jesus was willing to lay down his life for the sheep (Mt. 20:28).

## BEFRIEND HIS SHEEP, vv. 14-15

- A. The good shepherd knows his sheep.
  - 1. The good shepherd knows his sheep by name (Jn. 10:3).
  - 2. "The Lord knows those who are his" (2 Tim. 2:19).
  - 3. The Lord knows you, and the Lord cares about you.
- B. The good shepherd is known by his sheep.
  - 1. The sheep know the good shepherd's voice and they follow him (Jn. 10:4).
  - 2. If we know Jesus, we follow him.
  - 3. Illustration in *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching*, p. 420, s.v. "Jn. 10:4."
- C. The good shepherd knows the Father and is known by the Father.
  - 1. This shows a level of intimacy between the Father and the Son.
  - 2. This intimacy is the basis of our relationship with Jesus.

## **BRING TOGETHER HIS SHEEP, v. 16**

- A. He has sheep which are not of this fold.
  - 1. "This fold" clearly refers to the Jews.
  - 2. Therefore, these other sheep are clearly Gentiles.
- B. The good shepherd will bring them in.
  - 1. These other sheep will hear the shepherd's voice.
  - 2. There will be one flock and one shepherd.
- C. The Old Testament said that Gentiles would be accepted into God's plan.
  - 1. Jesus would be a "light to the Gentiles" (Is. 42:6).
  - 2. Many nations would come into the church (Mic. 4:1-5).
- D. Had Jesus not brought in the Gentiles, we would have no hope.

All of this—

## **BENEFITS HIM, vv. 17-18**

- A. The Father loves the good shepherd.
  - 1. The Father loves him because he lays down his life.
  - 2. The Father is pleased with the shepherd.
- B. No one takes the good shepherd's life
  - 1. He voluntarily lays it down (Mt. 26:53).
  - 2. Illustration about Pres. Truman, *Sermons on the Cross*, p. 60.
- C. The good shepherd also has power to take his life back up as the Father gave him commandment.
  - 1. Jesus had the power to take his life back up again.
    - a. Jesus was raised back to life.
    - b. Because Jesus was raised back to life, we shall resurrected (1 Cor. 15:22-23).
  - 2. Jesus had received this from the Father.
    - a. Jesus obeyed the Father (Phil. 2:8).
    - b. Because Jesus obeyed the Father, we can have eternal life.

## **CONCLUSION**

- A. Jesus is the good shepherd, and he loves us dearly.
- B. Won't you return that love'?