

John 10:10 (The Good Shepherd, Part 3)

Intro: When I ask people the question: How are you doing – I get a wide range of responses

A) Some Doing fine – And they sincerely believe they are doing fine - That is how they feel.

B) Others – **Doing ok!** – Ok? – You can just tell but the lack of confidence in their voice – not sure – I ask really – Ok

1) What is going on.

C) Some – response – Pause – **How am I doing** – I don't know – I haven't had time to think about it – I am just doing

1) Let me think – Well I guess I am doing ok

D) **Pastors Favorite response** – How are you doing – They tell you everything they are doing - Going here / doing this

1) Tell you how the Church is doing And what the Church is doing

E) Pastors aren't the only ones who do that – People in business do that - /parents do that – tell you about their kids

Reason: Many of us have a tendency to find our sense of identity in what we do / instead of who we are.

A) Often times that is because we really don't like who we are. – **We want to be someone else or something – else – looking ahead**

B) Image or a goal in mind that we want to attain – a vision that we are trying to see come to fruition

C) **But let me tell you this:** What you do is secondary to who you are and who you are is directly connected to WHO'S YOU ARE.

D) That is what makes what Jesus says here in John 10 so important – He declares – **I am the Good shepherd – Know my sheep** – Care for

1) Protect and lay down my life for the Sheep.

For us who are believers how we are doing – Has everything to do with – Who we are – and who we belong to

A) We are sheep in the flock of the good Shepherd.

B) The Bible doesn't call us lions – because we are not the strongest

1) **Who is the King of the Jungle** – Tiger you are / Monkey you are

2) Elephant – Picks him up by the trunk – throws against a tree

Sits on him – Lion says – **just because you don't Mean**

C) Doesn't call us Lions – not the king of the planet – we think we are.

D) **Doesn't call us Dolphins** – Not the smartest
{ Dolphin shows No sheep shows
1)– Throw a Frisbee not going to fetch like your dog.

E) **Doesn't call us antelopes** – not the most swift
1) Doesn't call us Beavers – **not the most strategic**

F) What He calls us is sheep – Probably the neediest of God's Creatures
1) Sheep need a Shepherd

Now if you don't have a shepherd – Bad shape – See in John 10:10 Jesus describes Satan in this way
The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

A) That is the tendency of the enemy of our souls – he is bent on destruction, taking, using –

B) He will lure a person into his web like a spider and then – wrap them up in his web – in order to take their very life from them.

C) He is bent on destruction

D) But in Contrast to that – Our Shepherd declares - **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

The Greek word for “abundance,” *perissos*, has a mathematical meaning and generally denotes a surplus.

A) It is translated “remains.”

In this sense it is used of the twelve baskets of food that remained after Christ's feeding of the 5000

B) Picture of there was more than enough – **Even Leftovers**

C) Our English word “abundance” comes from the two Latin words *ab* and *undare* which mean “to rise in waves” or “to overflow.”

1) One wave after another – a constant flow – upon the Shore – OCSD Harbor on a big day.

D) **SO the abundant life is therefore, one in which we are content in the knowledge that God's grace is more than sufficient for our needs.**

1) No matter how great the need – God's grace is more than enough – **to meet the need or situation**

Sam Duncannon was a layman w/ an unusual ministry. He would take a picture of some scene & attach to it a verse a hymn or a poem that seemed to capture the essence of that scene.

A) Picture of Niagara falls wanting to communicate the sufficiency of God's grace attached to it a Hymn sung by Ira Sankey

Have you on the Lord Believed ?

Still there is more to follow !
Of His Grace have you received?
Still there is more to follow !
Oh the grace the father shows
still there is more to Follow
Freely of His grace He bestows
Still there is more to follow
More & more & more & more
always more to follow
Oh His matchless boundless love
still there is more to follow !!!!!

B) It is not that the Christian life is free of problems – but there is an endless supply of God’s grace to carry us thru them.

C) Probably the best description of what this abundant life is supposed to look like between the Shepherd and His sheep is found in Psalm 23

1) This is such a rich Psalm that I was tempted to spend several weeks here

I am not going to do that at this time. Maybe later

D) I will however recommend a classic book on Psalm 23 you can pick up at the book cart – Shepherd looks at Psa 23 by Philip Keller

Keller spent a number of yrs as a Shepherd and gives some incredible insights into this Psalm –

Staff This summer our staff..... great blessing
Turn to Psalm 23 -

This psalm describes the Abundant life –as the Contented life Notice how it begins “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want”

A) Mark of the contented life – I shall not be in want – my needs are met as long as I am following Him!

B) In our culture there are SO many lives marked by Discontentment

Listen to these words by Jason Lehman:

It was spring. But it was summer I wanted - The warm days, and the great outdoors.

It was summer. But it was fall I wanted - The colorful leaves, and the cool, dry air.

It was fall. But it was winter I wanted - The beautiful snow, and the holiday season.

It was winter. But it was spring I wanted - The warmth, and the blossoming of nature.

I was a child. But it was adulthood I wanted - The freedom, and the respect.

I was 20. But it was 30 I wanted/ To be mature, sophisticated.

I was middle-aged. But it was 20 I wanted - The youth, and the free spirit.

I was retired. But it was middle age I wanted - The presence of mind, without limitations.

Then my life was over, and I never got what I wanted.

Description of so many – today! Always wanting something else. Life of Regret

In a cemetery in England there's a gravestone with this inscription: **"She died for want of things."**

Alongside that stone is another, which reads, **"He died trying to give them to her."**

Max Lucado refers to our discontentment as the **"prison of want."**

"Its prisoners want something bigger. Nicer. Faster. Thinner. If your happiness comes from something you deposit, drive, drink, or digest, then you're in the prison of want. Are you hoping that a change in circumstance will bring a change in your attitude? If so, you're locked up. You're in a cell of discontentment."

Max Lucado

Jesus has so much more for us than that!

Well David here in Psalm 23 tells us about 4 things that our shepherd does for us that results in our being content – Results in Abundant life.

#1 He Provides

"He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul."

A) **Green pastures** – Pastures of **fresh growth** – full
1) **He leads me beside the still waters:** Beside the water of resting places.

B) Sheep will not drink from a rushing stream so the shepherd would often have to dam up an area of the stream in order to still the water.

C) In his book, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, author Phillip Keller, tells of the difficulty there is in getting a sheep to lie down. Sheep do not easily lie down

D) **"It is almost impossible for them to be made to lie down unless four requirements are met.**

- 1) **Free from Fear.** Sheep are timid creatures – can't rest when their afraid. - Shepherds presence brought security. –
- 2) **Free from Friction.** Strife in the flock – no rest .
- 3) **Free from frustrations.** Flies parasites bugs – they will not lie down.
- 4) **Free from famine.** - sheep will not lie down as long as they feel in need of finding food. They must be free from hunger."

Physically I can relate to that- Hard to sleep when I am afraid – Mouse – by my night stand – afraid it was going to crawl on my face/ mouth

A) Africa – Snakes – one house – Python/ spiders

B) Game park lion – Roar – didn't sleep good those nights

C)When there is Tension – At odds with someone –

1) Denise – I can't sleep until it is over – my heart is heavy can't turn that off – hard

D)Aggravation: I woke up this past week – 2am – couldn't go back to sleep – just aggravated over something – Mind was racing.

E) Hunger – Can't sleep forget it if I try to go to bed on an empty stomach

Spiritually it is equally true – my heart is not going to be at rest – Content – Joyful

A)Spiritually I am just like the sheep – Fearful anxious agitated tense –

B)All of which affects my contentedness { my joy

C) The only difference between us and the sheep is this the shepherd is the only one who can help the sheep –

D)Our problem is we spend too much time trying to help ourselves{ Fix ourselves

E)Some of us never slow down enough to chew on the green pastures of His word – and be refreshed in the Living Water.

1) We are busy – not prone to rest –

Remember life before cell phones – pagers

It was wonderful

A)We had to wait to get home -if you missed a call you didn't know you missed it no answering machines

B) If someone called while you were on the phone you just missed it – there was no call waiting.

1) Now we are so busy – always multi tasking

C) Court stenographers tell us that in the courtroom today – **people are speaking 20-40 more words per minute – than in 1960**

D) We are talking that much faster today

Notices it says – He makes me – actually He causes me – Not a head lock – Leads me not forces

A)His very presence amongst the sheep = absence of fear – tension

B) Here is what He is saying – when it comes to provision –

1)We don't have to expend a lot of effort to be Satisfied

C) Let Him lead us – slow down enough to partake of Him

D) Result : He restores my soul –

Cast sheep – Falls down - Ends up on his back – legs in the air – trapped

A) He restores my soul – Restore = to bring it back – peace
Lost something – all day long

B) **There are things that cause my soul to be lost - - He brings it back**

1) My shepherd causes me to stop pause – be refreshed – focus on Him

Philippians 4:6-7

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

#2 He Pilots v.3 “he LEADS me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”

A) The Hebrew word translated "paths" means "a well-defined, well-worn trail."

B) The shepherd knows the trails. He has been there before, and the sheep trust him.

C) **Path that is well fitting – Well worn in the sense that it is well fitting –**

1) My yoke is easy – well fitting – well worn path is easy to follow – well marked – not fighting thru brush and climbing thru obstacles.

D) Right relationships – Marriage // Ministry / Business

We have to make countless decisions, day after day, which touch the lives of our children and our wives and husbands.

A) We need wisdom. We need a shepherd. We need someone who knows the trails, someone whom we can trust

B) **He is willing to lead us – The problem is never his leading – but rather the problem lies in him finding hearts willing to be led.**

C) **Leads us in right paths for his name sake –**

1) Contented satisfied sheep are a good testimony for the shepherd

#3 He Protects us. V.4

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

A) Shepherd would often take the flock from the plains to the MT top in the summer months – get there – Thru the Valley.

1) A Valley was a place of danger because it afforded robbers and predators opportunities for ambush –

B) **This reveals that even under the Shepherds care there are going to be seasons that are dark trying – difficult – tested**

1) **Strong faith is a tested faith**

We live in a world that is infected by sin – these are the results

A) A defeat – Someone falls A death – Marriage / Literal

B) In the Hebrew the valley of the shadow of death can be translated the Valley of deep Gloom. Or dense darkness

C) One of the symptoms of this despair is that there is sense of being alone –

1) Although the Psalmist pictured himself as being among the flock – the word he uses is **I stressing his aloneness** { Even though I

D) In those times of despair / dark / the overwhelming Characteristic is I feel alone !

1) Want to sing - Nobody knows the trouble I have seen – nobody knows my sorrow

But notice in the midst of his aloneness – he is not alone – I will not fear why? for you are with me – your rod and staff they comfort me

A) The word “comfort” comes from the Latin. “Com” means “with” and speaks of company.

B) “Fortis” is the word for “strong.” Putting these two thoughts together we get the idea of “strength through companionship.”

C) His presence is marked by two distinct things – His rod and His staff

D) Rod – Weapon – Throw at predators

E) Staff – long pole with a crook – pull sheep out of trouble – Cliff

John 10 No one can snatch you from my hand

Weapon: Belt of truth – throw at Predators –

A) Staff the ministry of His spirit to our hearts – reminding us of His love and care

.He continues on this theme of his protection Psalm 23:5

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.”

Now at this point it is worth noting that that sense of intimacy intensifies

A) Because instead of talking about God in the 3rd person David now speaks to God directly

You prepare a table before me – You anoint my head with oil

B) Eating in the presence of your enemies speaks of being in absolute control and total peace –

1) Think about a soldier – Enemies are surrounding – He is either – preparing weapons

C) Hiding – Running – Never eating!

Hey you guys are here for me – Fine – Just wait a second one more bite

A) I will fight you guys when I am done – and I might just order desert. - Confidence – Peace

Hebrews 13:5-6

"I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

B) Reality is this: I Know I am not the one doing the fighting – You see guess who is here – who prepared this table for me in your presence

1) My shepherd – My God – It is Jesus – You are toast

C) Here is how it works – His battle – He fights for me – thru me – He equips me

1) You anoint my head with oil

D) Anointed with oil is always in scripture a symbol of being baptized in the spirit

1) I am equipped with supernatural power

E) And supernatural resources- My cup runs over – Over flowing cup

#4 He Pursues

Psalm 23:6

**6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;**

He pursues me with His Love – Mercy – new each morning – He has my good on his heart

Result -

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

I am not going anywhere – Not looking to be satisfied in anyone or thing

The over arching theme of the Psalm is His Sufficiency –

A) The Promises of His word = rest

B) The abundance of His grace – Gets me thru

C) Ministry of His Spirit – always there to lead me if I am willing to be led

1) Always willing to comfort if I am willing to be comforted

D) Look to – draw near to rest in – My Good shepherd