

John 10:11-18 (The Good Shepherd, Part 4)

Today we come to our 4th and final study on the subject of Jesus our Good Shepherd.

A) There are 3 things I want us to consider this morning as we look at these verses.

B) #1 His Description

#2 His Devotion

#3 His Desire

#1 His Description: "I am the Good Shepherd."

A) This is a profound statement. The 4th of the 7 I am statements found in the gospel of John

B) Interesting how it reads in the Greek - **"I am the shepherd, the good one"**

1) There are at least two words, in the Grk language for good, one is agathos from which we get the name Agatha, which means the good one.

C) And agathos means good in the sense of moral quality, It is authentic

D) For example, I might paint a painting. It might be agathos, good in the sense of moral quality.

1) Trying to paint a tree and you can tell it is a tree

E) SO it would be agathos – moral quality – but it would be lousy artistically – I can't paint

But the Greeks had another word that expressed not only moral goodness, but total beauty and loveliness and that word was kalos and that is the word that is used here.

A) It describes good in the sense of being a profound piece of art.

1) It is Beautiful – My Mom paints – gifted – Beautiful paintings

B) Jesus does not say, "I am the morally good one." He says, "I am the good one preeminent and excellent in every feature, I am the good, the beautiful one.

" I am , the excellent preeminent, lovely, beautiful shepherd..

C) And that singles out Christ, friends. He's not just another shepherd.

1) There is no other shepherd. He's above all shepherds.

D) And of course Jewish History was loaded with Shepherds – Abe / Isaac / Jacob / Moses

1) Most Popular – David

E) And so what is Jesus saying here? In effect He's saying, **"I'm greater than David."**

But I think there's even something beyond the claim to be greater than David. I think what He's doing really here is claiming deity.

Israel viewed God as the ultimate Shepherd.

A) David in Psalm 23 – The Lord is my

B) Psalm 80:1

**Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
You who lead Joseph like a flock;
You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth!**

C) They were familiar with that picture – God leading Israel like a Shepherd leads his flock

D) SO by using this statement – Jesus was once again putting himself on the same plain as God.

1) Claiming equality with God.

#2 His Devotion: He gives His life for the sheep

A) Out in the Wild the sheep were always at risk – from a **Variety of Predators:**

B) Rustlers who wanted to steal the sheep –

1) Lions Wolves and Bears who wanted to eat the sheep

C) The only protection the sheep had was from the Shepherd –

1) The Shepherd had to be willing to Lay down His life for the Sheep –

D) Jesus declared I am the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the Sheep. –

1) Or On behalf of the Sheep

A story is told of firefighters who were putting out the last hot spots in a forest fire. Such fires can rage with intense heat and spread quickly overtaking animals in their path. In the course of their work, a firefighter came across a mother bird, sitting on the ground, charred black in death.

Why hadn't the bird flown up to safety, the firefighter wonders to himself. Had it been sick or injured? But as he lifts the bird up, he finds the reason why.

Beneath the dead mother's body are five baby chicks. The mother bird had sacrificed her life to keep her chicks safe.

Jesus laid down His life in order to save us!

A) Now the word life here in v.11 is interesting:

B) In the Greek there are two words for life, neither one of them is used here.

C) One is bios from which we get our word biology which means life just the breathing part of life,

1) you know, I exist, that's it, you know, as opposed to being dead.

D) The other is **zoe** which means the circumstances of life.

But When Jesus gave His life He didn't just give up His biological breathing, (Bios)

A) And He did not just forfeit the circumstances of life. (Zoe)

B) You know what the word used here is? It's **psuche, that's the word that's translated soul.**

1) It means the total man inside.

C) When Jesus died, He wasn't just throwing His body up there,

1) you want to read the verse right read it this way, "The Good Shepherd poured out His soul for the sheep," see.

D) When Jesus died, He was totally involved in that death.

1) He wasn't detached – It wasn't just His body – He poured out **His SOUL**, His entire being into death.

He felt the curse of sin. He felt the hurt of hate. He felt the pain of nails.

A) He felt every excruciating agony that the sin of the world could put upon Him,

B) And He felt it in the depths of his Soul.

1) There was no detachment on the cross.

C) Now To illustrate His Devotion – Jesus contrast the actions of the Good Shepherd with those who were Hirelings **Rd V.12-13**

12 But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the

sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

The accounting department of a large insurance company was working on year-end reports when the computers went down. **An emergency call was put in to the systems analyst.**

Troubleshooting company-wide, the man didn't appear until three hours later. **Yet even then several clerks cheered, "He's here! Our savior."**

Without a word, the systems analyst turned to leave. Panicked, the accounting manager cried, "Where are you going?"

"I'm leaving," the analyst said with a half-smile. "I remember what they did to the last savior."

That is the attitude of the Hireling: I am no savior I am out of here.

A) A hireling was a paid-part-time shepherd who is in it for the money.

B) He flees in the face of Danger -

1) The Hireling flees because He has no real relationship to the Sheep – no sense of ownership – NO CARE

What is your preference – to have neighbors who own or rent –

A) We have great renters – But most would say – Those who own – Why?

B) When there is a sense of ownership people care more – take better care of things

C) Another question: How many of you drive your rental car a little different than your own

1) Little faster – brakes a little harder - Why? – Hey I don't have to worry about the repairs -

Jesus says the problem with the Hireling – Is He really doesn't care – Heart isn't into the sheep.

A) Now Jesus once again here is Challenging the religious leaders –

B) They were the Hirelings – Serving only for the money – the Prestige – the Power.

1) They were not in it for the Sheep – They really didn't have a love for the sheep –

2) which is why they had no problem – laying out heavy burdens on the people.

C) They were more about Principles, programs and procedures than they were about People

D) Whenever we put **principles, programs & procedures** a head of people and needs and individual lives –
1) we are moving in the opposite direction of Our Good Shepherd.

The Shepherd is all about ownership and relationships V14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. 15 As the Father knows

Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

A) The Shepherd is all about relationships – He knows the Sheep –

B) Jesus Compares it to the relationship with the father – Knows us – and wants us to know Him

1) The word He uses here for know is Ginosko = Know intimately by experience

C) And the word "know" very often in the Bible is used in terms of a love relationship.

1) For example, In the Old Testament it says, "Cain knew his wife and she bore a child."

D) It doesn't mean he knew her name. { Who are you }

1) It implies the most intimate kind of love relationship. It implies a union of love.

The word "know" implies loving fellowship. Did you get it? Loving fellowship.

A) Interesting that in Matt 7 Jesus divides the sheep and the goats – say to the goats - "Depart from Me I never...what?...knew you,"

B) Does that mean He doesn't know who they are? No. It means, "I never had an intimate loving fellowship with you."

C) The Shepherd Knows the Sheep - He knew each nuance of his sheep – each spot –

1) how he identified them – each blemish – loved them equally –

D) He identifies Himself with the sheep that is my flock { Not ashamed to call us His own!

Year Book for Aaron – Identify ourselves with Him – As Parents we are that way:

A) Our Child is always the best one in the play – Rock –

B) Best one on the team – Completely delusional- delusion based in love – See the best

C) No parent ever not identifies – which one are you

He knows His Sheep The sheep knew Him – His voice – His mannerism –

A) His Devotion and for that reason – They followed Him

B) Jesus wants us to know Him in that Way – Actor and Pastor –

1) Do you know the Psalm or the Shepherd?

#3 His Desire Do you know what else Christ does for the sheep? He unites the sheep.

16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

A) He reaches around the world to Jew and Gentile, whoever it may be, and gathers them into one flock.

Eph 2:11-13

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh — who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands — 12 that at that time you 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 you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

B) Paul continues by saying the wall that separated Jew and Gentile has been broken down

1) In Christ there is neither Free nor slave – Jew or Gentile – All one in Christ

C) All sinners saved by Grace ! –

1) Unified at the cross

D) Celebrate our Unity in worship – exalting the shepherd

1) **Communion** – Remembering the Cross

2) **In Evangelism** – Preaching the cross

E) Now this is not some forced – ecumenical unity – put together by a committee. { Forced Unity

1) We need a gathering – no we don't we are unified!

I personally think one of the biggest mistakes we make in the Church is not recognizing our diversity

A) Room for Diversity – Don't have to come together for combined services –

B) Different ways of doing things: That is ok

1) some more liturgical / some more Pentecostal – some more word based – others more experienced based –

C) All the body - Why it is that we focus so much on Better or best instead of just different

D) Are we the best Church in Vista – No Way – We might be the best Church for you in the sense that you fit here

E) We need to learn to applaud what others are doing and say – PTL – He is really using them there.

I don't think the world is impressed when the Churches gather – oh look a combined service

A) But they sure do take note of all the petty little gossip that goes – on

B) Courson – Don't cut down a tree that is bearing fruit – We do that too much

C) Today: So much – emphasis on teaching truth – pointing out error –

1) There are too many – looking for any little flaw

Lets Put away the competitive attitudes and just applaud what others are doing

A) We are one – Brought together by the Good Shepherd who loved us enough to lay down his life for us !

B) But the story doesn't end with a mangled shepherd lying dead among the wolves – with sheep scattered and thirsty starving in the desert.

17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes 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 command I have received from My Father."

C) He laid down His life and He had the power to take His life back again after He had given it.

1) Nobody took it from Him.

D) I always think of John 19 where Pilate says, "Don't You know I have power to take Your life?"

1) Jesus is like Yea Right - "You don't have power to do anything if I don't allow it."

E) That is why we always seek to connect the Crucifixion w/ the resurrection .