

I am the Good Shepherd

John 10:11-21

I AM Series

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

⁷Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who *ever* came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

We Saw in our study last time – Jesus begins using this analogy – Shepherd and Sheep.

A) Sheep are one of the dumbest animals on the planet – that is who Jesus compares us to.

B) Sheep need a shepherd – Sheep need to be led

1) Wants us to understand – WE NEED A LEADER

C) We often don't like that – we want to be independent and all.

But the Sooner we realize – that we are better off following our shepherd – the better life gets.

A) Rich Life – abundant life.

B) The Devil is the **thief who is forever seeking to lead people down the path of destruction.**

C) But Jesus – has come – that we might have life and that more abundantly

Last week – we looked at – His Revelation – being the entry point into the sheepfold.

A) He is the door – No one comes into the sheepfold except through him.

B) In that message – We noted that Jesus hit on one of the **deepest longings in the heart of a person.**

1) The longing to belong – to be a part of something

C) Longing for Family – Jesus was clearly identifying himself as – THE ENTRY POINT into the family...

Today we come to I AM statement #4 V.11 Jesus Expands on this picture. – Relationship with us.

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ¹²But 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. ¹³The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

¹⁴I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. ¹⁵As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶And 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.

¹⁷“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸No 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.”

¹⁹Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. ²⁰And many of them said, “He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?”

²¹Others said, “These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

“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 Greek 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

1) Lets pretend – I have an easel – Attempt to paint a tree – Brown trunk – Green leaves -

D) When I was done – You could tell – that is a tree!

1) It would be agathos, good in the sense of moral quality.

E) But it would be LOUSY Artistically – because I can't paint or draw.

But the Greeks had another word that expressed not only moral goodness, but total beauty and loveliness

A) And that word was kalos and that is the word that is used here.

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

1) There is beauty and detail – it can be admired and studied.

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

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

Now this was a big statement: Jewish History was loaded with Shepherds – Abraham / Isaac/ Jacob / Moses

A) Most Popular – David

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

1) **All the rest of the Shepherds in Israel's long history**

But it went even further – Israel looked at God as their ultimate Shepherd.

A) The Psalmist spoke of God as a Shepherd in Psalm 80:1

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth! - Psalm 80:1

B) The Prophet Isaiah declared these words.

Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young. Isaiah 40:10-11

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

D) So by making this statement – the people clearly understood – Jesus was putting himself in that category.

1) Which is the reason for the strong reaction we read in V.19-21

19 When he said these things, the people* were again divided in their opinions about him.

20 Some said, "He's demon possessed and out of his mind. Why listen to a man like that?"

21 Others said, "This doesn't sound like a man possessed by a demon! Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

It is easy to miss that: We read these verses – this picture – think – So Sweet shepherd with the sheep.

A) To his Jewish listeners – IT WAS BLASPHEMOUS

B) He is putting himself on par with God!

1) Claiming equality with God.

C) But Jesus wants them to see beyond the fact that He is the shepherd who will lead them

1) He is a shepherd who loves them. He is devoted to them.

D) He is going to do this by way of Contrast.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices 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 --- CONTRAST

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.

A)Now we understand this: - Own something – you care more about it – right.

B)Own a house vs renting – willing to put some money into it.

C)Or another analogy – How many of you drive a rental car – differently than – your own?

D)Come to a section of the road – 4 wheeling – never take your car through there –

1)Rental – Go for it

E)Costa Rica and try to cross the River -

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/needs/ individual lives –

1) we are moving in the opposite direction of Our Good Shepherd.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd Who lays down his life for the sheep!

A)He is all in – Not part way – but the whole way.

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 wondered 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 **psuché**, that's the word that's translated soul.

1)It means the total man inside – Inner most being

C)Application 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,"**

D)When Jesus died, He was totally immersed into it.

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

E) Turn to John 12:20

C) John 12:20 Jesus and the Disciples are in Jerusalem

²⁰ Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. ²¹ Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

²² Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

Great Description of worship – See Jesus

Jesus' weird response: ²³ But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. ²⁴ Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

Personal illustration – He was the grain – unless died and buried – no Fruit

²⁷ "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify Your name."

My Soul is troubled - psyche – My innermost being

A) Who I am at the core – is troubled – Father save me.

B) Jesus wasn't wrestling with the physical pain – so much as the Spiritual implication.

C) He who knew no sin – become sin for us.

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. –
2) My God... Broken heart

Jesus is the Good Shepherd Who lays down his life for the sheep!

A) But He doesn't leave the sheep Shepherdless.

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."

B) His Resurrection: Lay it down – but take it back

C) Die for our sins – Rise to give us life.

He Gave His whole – Life – ALL IN – BUT KNEW HE WOULDN'T STAY DOWN! – HE WOULD RISE

Hebrews 12:3 – Joy set before Him endured the Cross – despising the Shame

Endured = Hupomano - Conquer

V.14,15 – His Heart in why He was willing to do that.

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 – Known by the sheep.

B) The word "know" is Ginosko = Know intimately by experience – implies loving fellowship.

C) This is what Jesus is desperately wanting us to understand.

#1 We are valuable to Him – Reason He was willing to lay down His Life for us.

A) He saw that we needed Rescuing – He is the shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep

#2 He Rescued us for Relationship – He knows us

A) **Phillip Keller – Shepherd looks at Psalm 23 – one of the best books for your Christian walk – MUST READ**

B) Writes about how the shepherd knows – each sheep – he can tell them apart.

C)He knows their distinct Markings

Jesus Knows you! Everything about you.

A)Knows strengths – weaknesses – quirks

B)He knows the things no one else knows. – Loves You

Jesus knows that one of the deepest longings in the heart of man – LONGING FOR IDENTITY!

A)People intrinsically are longing – to KNOW WHO THEY ARE – FIND THEIR PLACE.

B)Career or a Role that Defines them.

C)Ever ask someone how they are doing and – they start telling you – WHAT they are doing?

Dude: Simple question – How doing – Not what.

A)But People tend to find their identity in what they do. In their Role.

B)A mother to her Kids – Everything about her revolves around her kids.

1)Kids are doing good – she is doing good.

C)They are meeting their goals – She is satisfied

1)Her identity is wrapped up in those kids.

Men are notorious for this.

A)Why when two guys first meet – it is not long before the conversation – moves to what do you do.

B)Men so often find their identity in what they do.

1)Their Careers Define them

C)Always a fun one with me – Meet someone – They're Cussing – make snide remark about someone.

What do you do anyway? - I'm a Pastor – he turns eight shades of red

A)Start apologizing all over themselves.

B)True – Men tend to find their identities in what they do – Successful or not successful

C)Career Test in High School -

Jesus knowing that is our make up is wanting us to understand something – so important – powerful

A)WE NEED TO FIND OUR IDENTITY IN HIM

B)We are His sheep – He IS THE SHEPHERD!

C)HE LAID DOWN – His life for us

1)He knows Us and – He wants us to know Him

D)Know His voice – Follow Him

Some of you are thinking – Doesn't sound exciting

A)My identity is a Sheep – already said – sheep are the dumbest animals

B)Blow to my self-esteem - A SHEEP

C)Again if you study the relationship between a GOOD SHEPHERD and His Sheep

Discover – Sheep – Know their shepherd – Are at rest!

A)Confident – He is going to take care of me.

B)David: He Leads me beside the still waters – He makes me to Lie down

1)He Restores my soul.

C)HE IS A SHEPHERD – WHO LEADS HIS SHEEP IN THE RIGHT PATHS

HE knows the sheep – Knows their needs!

A)Jesus wants us to have Confidence in our relationship with Him.

B)He is going to lead me Right! - How do I know that? – CROSS

1)I may not know where I'm headed – but I know that HE KNOWS – REST IN THAT.

C)He is committed to me as His sheep – NOT GOING TO BAIL – when things get tough.

1)How do I know that? – THE CROSS.

When I understand what it means to have Jesus as my shepherd – I AM BLESSED.

A)Being His sheep becomes my badge of honor

B)I belong to Jesus

One last thing: V.16 – The Shepherds Mission

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)Speaking to Jews about Gentiles – take it further

B)Application for us – He has sheep not a part of this fold.

C)Paul imprisoned in Corinth – Deja Vu

1)Don't be afraid – I have many in this city.

D)Pray for the Lost

E)The Shepherd wants – those of us who are His sheep to have His heart!

When my identity is found in belonging to Him – I see what I do differently.

A)You are not a Plumber who is a Christian – You are a Christ follower – who happens to be a plumber

B)You are a Christ follower who happens to be a doctor – or a mechanic

C)Your profession is simply the sphere of influence where by you – get to express Jesus to others.

D)Your identify is all about Who Jesus is – Who you are in Him – Who He wants to be in You!

Actor and Pastor story –

1) Do you know the Psalm or the Shepherd?