

Jesus, The Great Shephard

John 10:1-18

(August 18, 2024)

Throughout God's Word, the illustration of God being the great shepherd is evident! In Psalm 23 we see a prophecy of Jesus being the good Shepherd, leading his sheep "in paths of righteousness for his name's sake." In Psalm 80, God is called the Shepherd of Israel. In Isaiah 40 God promises to bring his people back from Babylon like a shepherd gathering his lambs. The list continues on and on. I want you to see the big picture here, Jesus cares about you so dearly, so intensely, enough to call you, to correct you, to comfort you, and to conform you to His likeness. If we aren't being conformed to His likeness through repentance, it is not Him who is calling, it's a counterfeit culture of rebellion to the Great Shephard, Jesus.

The Great Shepherd Gathers His Sheep (John 10:1-6) The design of verses 1 and 2 is so that Jesus which is to share, that He is the true and only shepherd, who was appointed, called, and sent by God. The Scribes and Pharisees called themselves shepherds, but they were thieves and robbers, and not shepherds of the flock; they were not sent by God. The Scribes and Pharisees did not come in the right door, but in another way, and usurped God's plan through Christ, which did not belong to them. Jesus gathers His sheep by calling them, and His sheep (believers) through the Holy Spirit, hear His voice. He is the one who gathers. The Scribes and Pharisees scatter sheep. Listen to what Jesus tells His disciples in Matthew 26:31 "Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'"

How does God speak to His Sheep? Henry Blackaby answers this question in his study titled "Experiencing God." Blackaby states, "Today God primarily speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church (other believers)." Paul tells us in Romans 10:17 "**So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.**" I know what we do here on Sundays and Wednesdays is very valuable! I pray that is your attitude! I know that Satan wants to distract you, disrupt you, and misdirect you to blind you and bound you from the value of hearing God through the study and proclamation of scripture! In fact Satan will make you so busy that the corporate study of scripture on Sundays and Wednesdays will become less of a priority. Parents, what your children see in your prioritization of hearing from God will be their realization when they are adults. If you place little emphasis on the things of Christ and His bride the church, they will not place any emphasis on it when they can choose. I'm reminded of Judges 2:10 "**And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.**" How will they hear from God if we do not tell them? Romans 10:14 "**How then will**

they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”

Let's get them to every opportunity to hear from God! The Rooted Youth Ministry Meets on Wednesdays at 6 pm, RAs and GAs meet on Wednesdays at 6 pm. We have an adult devotional here at 6 pm. Sunday School for all ages is at 10 am on Sundays. Listen, He is gathering His sheep!

The Great Shephard Guards His Sheep (John 10:7-10) A gate provides protection. Jesus is protecting His current and future followers from the destruction of the Sanhedrin, the Scribes, and Pharisees. Part of my calling as a pastor is to strive to protect you from wolves as found in Acts 20:28-31. One of the greatest dangers to our spiritual health is someone claiming to be a Christian, yet distracts us from the gospel of Jesus Christ. We're studying false teachings and cults on Wednesday nights. In this study, we find out that a lot of people are pulled away into false teaching and cults by people who are looking for selfish gain. They are not interested in the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are not interested in coming into the fold the correct way, the door of Jesus Christ. The Shephard would graze the sheep during the day, and then move them back to a pen of some type at night. The only ones who could come in and out of that pen through the gate were other shepherds of that folk. Robbers and thieves would climb the wall in order to steal sheep. Jesus is our protection from false teaching, heartache, and eternal pain.

- A. The protection of the Great Shephard offers security (vv.7-8)
- B. The protection of the Great Shephard offers salvation (v.9)
- C. The protection of the Great Shephard offers satisfaction (v.10)

The Great Shephard Grants Life to His Sheep (John 10:11-18) Jesus grants life by giving or laying down His own life. He grants life through the sacrifice of the cross to sinners who repent and turn to Him through faith. Look at verse 14. Jesus has personal knowledge of those who believe upon Him for salvation! He knows them! God knows His children through a relationship with Jesus Christ the son! Some may look at verse 16 and think that other ways lead to eternal life. John 10:7, 14:6; and Acts 4:12 are clear that through Jesus, He is the only way. What we believe this passage is referring to is that Jesus will unite the Jewish Christians with the Gentile Christians, by grace through faith. The other sheep in the text are the Gentiles, who are not of Israel's fold, but too will hear the voice of Jesus call to salvation according to Isaiah 42:6; 49:6, and Romans 1:16. When you can, read through Acts 10 and Acts 15 to see the ignition of the Gentile New Testament Church. It's interesting, yet it was a struggle to begin with. Paul was instrumental in its development. Verses 17-18 display the death, burial, and resurrection that Jesus would do in order that

we would be granted eternal life! 1 John 5:12 ***“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”***

Have you given your life to the Great Shepherd? If you haven't you can. If you have, we are to help others find rest in the Great Shepherd, Jesus. I'd like to close today by reading the 23rd Psalm together. It will be the screen.

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

3 He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

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.

5 You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

forever.