
I AM the Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12** He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. **13** He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. **14** I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, **15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. **17** For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. **18** No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

Last week, Pastor Stokke introduced the concept of Jesus as shepherd and His followers as beloved sheep. Today we move deeper into the parable, as Jesus proclaims that He is not only the door but also the Good Shepherd. We will look at John 10:11-18 and focus on four words.

I. **Covenant**

When Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd,” He identified Himself clearly as the fulfillment of God’s covenant with His people (Isaiah 40:11; Jeremiah 23:3-4; Ezekiel 34/Psalm 23). By placing Himself in Psalm 23 and in the promises of the Old Testament, Jesus presented Himself as the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant.

II. **Compassion**

Jesus the Shepherd knows His sheep

- a. He knows His own
- b. Those that belong to Him recognize His voice because they spend time with Him in prayer and in the Word and with other believers. They are accustomed to His compassionate hand and His loving embrace.
- c. The compassion of the Good Shepherd opens for us the same intimate relationship that Jesus shares with God the Father.
- d. The Good Shepherd laid down His life for His sheep.
- e. Jesus has other sheep the Father has called and given to Him — sheep from all nations, tribes, and languages.

III. **Counterfeits**

As we stay close to the Good Shepherd, He will protect us from the counterfeit shepherds who do not want to save us but want to consume us (vv. 12-13).

IV. **Conform**

Everyone is being led by someone or something. The shepherds we choose conform us into their images, their philosophies, and their worldviews. Every person who follows Jesus should be conformed into His likeness, die to self, and follow our victorious, compassionate Good Shepherd.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the covenant that our Good Shepherd fulfilled? (II Samuel 7; I Chronicles 17)
2. How do you know that God knows your name? How does knowing that truth change the way you live your life?
3. What words did Jesus use to describe counterfeit shepherds? (vv. 12-13)
4. How many times does Jesus mention laying down His life? List them. (vv. 15-18)
5. What does it mean when the Scripture tells us that Jesus has other sheep the Father has called and given to Him? What impact should that truth have on our lives?
6. Give examples of cultural counterfeit shepherds. How do we recognize them and how do we protect ourselves from them?

Going Deeper

1. Give an example of how the Lord has shown Himself to be your Good Shepherd this week.
2. How do you consciously guard against being deceived by counterfeit shepherds?
3. How does the way we live our lives reflect whether we have been conformed to the image of the Shepherd or the image of the world?