

The True Shepherd

(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #38)

John 10:10-21

A. The imagery of sheep in this passage isn't flattering

1. Sheep are known to be among the dumbest of animals
2. Sheep require constant attention or they will die
3. Sheep are stubborn; they hate change; they are timid and easily frightened

B. This passage also tells a few things about shepherding

1. First, sheep need a shepherd to watch and protect them
2. Second, sheep will follow a shepherd - almost any shepherd
3. Third, the nature, quality and demeanor of sheep are determined by the shepherd they follow

C. The ultimate test of being a Good Shepherd is how he treats his sheep

As the Good Shepherd, JESUS IS COMMITTED TO HIS SHEEP

A. We often ask people if they have committed their life to Jesus Christ

B. Even more important is the fact that Jesus has committed his life to us

1. If we're only committed to him, nothing changes; if he is committed to us, everything changes - that is Good News!

"I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you." (John 14:18)

"Do not let not your hearts be troubled, trust in God, trust also in me...in my father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you, I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again to take you to be where I am." (John 14:1f)

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete"
(John 15:11)

2. He longs to simply be with us

"If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask." (Matt. 7:11)

3. How much is he committed to us?

"The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep...I lay down my life for the sheep...the reason the Father loves me is that I lay down my life - only to take it up again." (Jesus' Mission statement; John 10:11)

"He has freed us from our sins by his blood" (Revelation 1:5)

As the Good Shepherd, JESUS OWNS HIS SHEEP (10:12)

"I am not my own but belong, body and soul, in life and death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ."(HC Q/A 1)

A. Being an owner means if the sheep are hungry, it's the shepherd's problem!

B. Moses understands the John 10 Principle: "You're sheep, so it is the Shepherd's problem"

"Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you, you need only be still." (Exodus 14:14)

C. Jesus is the Good Shepherd; he meets all our needs; he cares for us

As The Good Shepherd, JESUS' FOCUS IS THE WELFARE OF THE SHEEP

A. We learn to trust slowly because everyone we've trusted has let us down

B. As our shepherd, Christ's purpose is the welfare of his sheep

C. The Good Shepherd loves you

As the Good Shepherd, JESUS IS OUR ONLY SOURCE OF SALVATION

A. If you long for salvation, Jesus is the Gate and the only Way (John 14:6)

B. Sometimes a Shepherd is required to lay down his life for his sheep

As the Good Shepherd, JESUS KNOWS HIS SHEEP; THEY FOLLOW HIM

A. The shepherd knows his sheep by name; the sheep recognize his voice

1. Jesus say, *"I am the Good Shepherd; I will gather all my sheep."*
2. Jesus is still calling out for his sheep; if you hear his voice, don't hesitate

B. You have a shepherd - everyone does; is he the Good Shepherd?

1. The nature, quality, and demeanor of your life depends on who you follow
2. There is only one Good Shepherd. Is Jesus your shepherd?