



I AM
THE GOOD
SHEPHERD

John 10:11-18

Week 4

Psálm 23:1, Ezekiel 34:11-16, Hebrews 13:20

Day 1 - Monday

John 10:11-18, Hebrews 13:20-21

The Good Shepherd

The Greek word for shepherd used in John 10:14 is used 18 times in the New Testament, and John uses it six times in John 10. The same word is used in Hebrews 13:20. This imagery of a Good Shepherd would have been familiar to the Jews and those in the early church because it was used throughout the Old Testament scriptures. Scripture shows shepherds play a significant role in God's story. The first recorded shepherd was Abel in Genesis, and later in Genesis, Jacob tended sheep. Before becoming king, David was a shepherd caring for his father's sheep (1 Samuel 16-17). The prophet Amos was also a shepherd before God called him to speak to Israel (Amos 1).

Shepherding in biblical times wasn't just a job—it was a relationship. Shepherds knew their sheep, cared for them, and protected them. If a sheep was lost, the shepherd went after it. The shepherd carried the sheep on his shoulders if it was weak or hurt. The sheep trusted the shepherd's voice and followed his lead. In Psalm 23, David beautifully captures this image, showing us that God is our Shepherd—providing, protecting, and guiding us through every season.

Jesus takes this even further when He calls Himself the Good Shepherd. He doesn't just lead us; He lays down His life for us. Unlike earthly shepherds, whose death meant disaster for their sheep, Jesus' death brings life to His flock. He came not just for one group but for all people, uniting us as one flock under one Shepherd. And like sheep, we need a shepherd. Left to ourselves, we're prone to wander, to follow the wrong voices, or to get stuck in places we can't escape. But Jesus doesn't leave us lost. He pursues us, rescues us, and restores us. His rod protects us from harm, and His staff gently pulls us back when we stray. He is always leading us to places of rest, provision, and life.



Reflection

Reflect today on the voices that lead and guide the decisions you make. Whose voice are you listening to? The voices of culture, fear, or your emotions? Or the voice of our Good Shepherd? Ask him to help you turn down the volume on those other voices so you can hear His voice more clearly.

Day 2 - Tuesday

John 10:14-16, Psalm 23, Ezekiel 34:11-16

OUR Good Shepherd

In his book *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, Philip Keller paints a vivid picture of the profound relationship between a shepherd and his sheep. He explains how sheep are entirely dependent on their shepherd for survival. Without guidance, they easily wander into danger. Without protection, they are defenseless against predators. Without care, they lack food, water, and rest. This imagery gives us a powerful understanding of Jesus as our Good Shepherd.

Jesus declares in John 10:11, *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."* Unlike a hired hand who might abandon the flock in times of trouble, Jesus remains steadfast, watching over us with unwavering love. He not only leads us to green pastures and still waters, but He also restores our weary souls. When we face trials, His rod and staff—symbols of His authority and care—bring comfort and protection.

Keller describes how a shepherd takes great care to ensure his sheep are content. They will not lie down unless they feel safe and free from fear, hunger, and distress. In the same way, Jesus tends to our deepest needs, giving us peace in the midst of life's uncertainties. Even when we walk through dark valleys, we can trust His presence and guidance, knowing that He will never leave us. Yet, as sheep, we must choose to follow our Shepherd. Keller emphasizes that a good shepherd calls his sheep by name, and they recognize his voice. Jesus calls us to trust Him, listen to His voice above the voices of the world, and follow Him wherever He leads. When we do, we lack nothing—because we have everything we truly need in Him.



Reflection

Are you allowing Jesus to shepherd your life today? Are you resting in His care or wandering, trying to find your own way? Take a moment to surrender your fears, struggles, and uncertainties to Him. He is faithful to lead, provide, and protect.

Day 3 - Wednesday

John 10:11-18, Psalm 139:1-3, Ephesians 1:17-19

The Shepherd Knows His Sheep

In Scripture, "to know" means much more than to be able to identify a person or a thing by name. In Bible language, "to know" involves intimacy, a deep understanding of the person or object involved. It means to be chosen, to be loved. In the original Hebrew text, the word "know" describes the intimate love between husband and wife. At the time of judgment, Jesus will say to those who masqueraded as believers, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!" (Matt. 7:23). Eastern shepherds knew the name of each sheep and could call it out of the fold each morning. But the shepherds also knew the nature of each sheep: those that were prone to wander, those that wanted their own way, those that delayed obeying their shepherd's commands. Because the shepherds possessed this kind of knowledge, they were better able to care for the flock. But the sheep also knew their shepherd! Just as children come to understand their parents better and pupils their teachers, so sheep learn to "read" their shepherd's voice and gestures. They know when he is warning them, when he is calling them together, and when he is simply reminding them that he is watching. For Jesus to compare His relationship with His sheep to His relationship with His Father is quite remarkable. It reminds me of what Jesus said to His Father when He concluded His prayer recorded in John 17: "I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them" (v. 26). The Father loves us as much as He loves Jesus! The better we get to know Jesus and the Father, the more we will love God and experience His love in our hearts, and the better we will obey Him. The shepherds had a loving relationship with their sheep, the kind of relationship we should have with our Good Shepherd. As we study the Word, worship, fellowship, and obey the Shepherd, we come to know Him and also ourselves better. It encourages me to know that my Shepherd knows and understands me thoroughly and still loves me and cares for me. "You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways" (Ps. 139:1-3)

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Jesus in the Present Tense: The I AM Statements of Christ*



Reflection

As Paul prayed in Ephesians 1, pray this over your heart today.

"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. I pray that the eyes of my heart may be enlightened so that I may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength."

Day 4 - Thursday

John 10:14-16, Matthew 18:10-14, Luke 15:1-4

The Good Shepherd Who Seeks

Have you ever felt lost? Not just physically, but spiritually—like you’ve wandered too far to be found? Maybe you’ve believed the lie that you’re beyond God’s reach, too broken, too distant for Him to come after you. Maybe you feel like you disappointed him or you haven’t been seeking his wisdom and guidance in your days. But let me remind you of something beautiful: Jesus is the Shepherd who seeks.

In John 10, Jesus tells us, *“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.”* His voice is the one that calls out to us, even in our wandering. He doesn’t wait for us to find our way back—He pursues us. Just like in Matthew 18 and Luke 15, where the Shepherd leaves the ninety-nine to find the one lost sheep, Jesus goes after the ones who feel unseen, unworthy, or forgotten.

Maybe today you feel like that one lost sheep. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is already searching for you. Maybe shame or fear has kept you from believing He would come after you. But hear this: He does. And when He finds you, He doesn’t scold you. He doesn’t tell you that you should have tried harder to stay close. Instead, He rejoices. He lifts you up, carries you on His shoulders, and celebrates because you belong to Him. Jesus is not a passive observer. He is an active rescuer. No matter how far you think you’ve strayed, He is already on His way to you. Rest in that truth today. Let yourself be found.

No matter where you find yourself today. Maybe you’re strong in your faith, resting safely in the fold. Maybe you’ve drifted, caught up in distractions, doubts, or struggles. Or maybe you feel too far gone, convinced that you’ve wandered past the point of return. There is no “too far” with Jesus.

The Shepherd is seeking you right now, calling your name. He isn’t waiting for you to fix yourself or find your own way back. He is coming for you with love, with grace, with arms open wide. And when He finds you, He lifts you onto His shoulders, carrying you home. You are worth seeking. You are worth saving. And you are loved.



Reflection

Sit with this truth today that Jesus, the Good Shepherd is actively seeking your heart and calling you by name to come home. Ask God to show you an area of your life in which you need to return to Him and let him guide your path.

Day 5 - Friday

John 10:11-18, Isaiah 53:4-7, John 3:16-17

The Mission and Authority of the Shepherd

Jesus has been talking about this relationship with the Jewish people, and in verse 16 he turns to "other sheep that are not of this sheep pen." The sheep pen would be Judaism, and the "other sheep" are the Gentiles...The Gentiles too are known by Jesus, and he will "bring them also" into his sheepfold when they "listen to my voice" calling them to the gospel. The Gentile mission is seen here as a divine necessity and part of Jesus' mission. The coming of the Gentiles into the people of God was proclaimed in the Abrahamic covenant, where God told Abraham that a major purpose for his choice of Israel was so that "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Gen 12:3)...It was always God's plan to bring the Gentiles into his larger fold...While the world hates God and rejects Jesus, God loves the world, and the mission of Jesus and the disciples is to the world. The result of this redemptive activity is that "there shall be one flock and one shepherd," uniting his people the remnant of Israel with the "other sheep," the Gentiles, into a new Israel...Such unity must be hard-fought, for human nature tends toward divisiveness, and that has been the case for the church in all the two thousand years of its existence... The Spirit at work in our midst must forge oneness out of our differences, and this takes place when the love and unity of the Godhead works itself out in the midst of such divisions. The basis for everything—from creation to redemption—is the Father's love. Salvation is possible because "God so loved the world", but that salvation is anchored in the Father's love for the Son, and Jesus' mission was the outgrowth of that love within the Godhead. Here the Father's love is intertwined with his Son's submission to his will, Christ's perfect union with the divine plan, the salvation that flows out of his vicarious sacrifice for sinful humankind. The wondrous truth, however, is that his death was not an end in itself. The purpose of his death is "so that" he might "take it up again"... Certainly the Jews condemned Jesus to death on the cross, and the Romans carried out the sentence, but the reality is that "no one takes [Jesus' life] from" him, but rather he "lays it down of [his] own accord". He voluntarily gave himself up on the cross as the substitute for our sins, and all that transpired took place on the basis of his divine "authority." Neither Satan nor the Jewish leaders nor the Romans were in charge. Jesus was, and his authority combined with his obedience to produce this salvific act. Christ perfectly controlled these final scenes and at the same time perfectly obeyed his Father's "command," so it was Jesus' authority and God's command that actually led to the cross.

Grant R. Osborne, *John: Verse by Verse*



Reflection

"This is surely one of the high points of the entire passion narrative in John and beyond. No one takes Jesus' life; he voluntarily lays it down." - Kenneth E. Bailey - The Good Shepherd

Reflect on what it means to you that Jesus voluntarily, on his own authority chose to lay down his life for you.

Day 6 - Saturday

Reflection Day

Reflection Notes and Questions

As we wrap up this week's study, reread John 10:11.

Reflect on these words that Jesus spoke, "I am the Good Shepherd" and what they mean about His character, His work on the cross, and how it should change how we see Him and how we live.

Reflect/journal your thoughts on this or these following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about who God is this week.
- What is something you learned this week that you want to remember? Why?
- How can you begin to posture your life to receive more from the Lord?

Day 7 - Sunday

Rest Day

Reflection Notes and Questions

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.