

Lesson Five- "I Am The Good Shepherd"

Jesus is the Ultimate Source of Care and Love

John 10:11-21

Responsive Reading from Ezekiel 34:11-16

A: For thus says The Lord God: "Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out.

B: As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep,

A: So will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered, on a cloudy and dark day.

B: I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land.

A: I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country.

B: I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel.

A: There they shall lie down in a good fold,

B: and feed in a rich pasture, on the mountains of Israel.

A: I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down," says The Lord God. "I will seek what was lost,

B: and bring back what was driven away;

A: bind up the broken,

B: and strengthen what was sick.

Prayer:

Jesus, Shepherd of the sheep,
Who Your Father's flock does keep,
Safe we wake and safe we sleep,
Guarded still by You.

In Your promise, firm we stand;
None can take us from Your hand.
Speak—we hear—at Your command,
We will follow You.
(CW 436:1,2)

Introduction

Agree or Disagree: Christianity is a crutch for weak people.

The Good Shepherd loves the sheep

In John 9, Jesus answered the Pharisees who criticized Him after He healed a man born blind. In John chapter 10 Jesus continues to use the picture of sheep and shepherds to describe His relationship with those who follow Him.

Read John 10:11.

1. What does Jesus emphasize by calling Himself “The Good Shepherd”?
2. The picture of a shepherd and sheep illustrates well our relationship with Jesus. The following points list what a shepherd does.
 - Shepherds _____ the sheep.
 - Shepherds _____ the sheep.
 - Shepherds _____ lost sheep.
 - Shepherds _____ the sheep when they are attacked.
3. What is striking about The Good Shepherd laying down His life for the sheep?

The hired hand is not The Good Shepherd

Read John 10:12,13.

1. Who in Jesus’ day is pictured by the “hired hand”? What about in our day?
2. What is the hired hand’s only interest?
3. Who is the wolf?
4. What makes the wolf so dangerous?

The Good Shepherd shares an intimate relationship with his sheep

Read John 10:14,15.

1. What does it mean that Jesus “knows” us?
2. Why is it important for us to know The *Good* Shepherd?
3. List some of the things that Jesus wants His sheep to do?

4. Jesus compares His relationship with us to His relationship with The Father. In what ways are they similar?

The Good Shepherd seeks other sheep

Read John 10:16.

1. In the immediate context, when Jesus spoke these words, who were the “other sheep”?
2. Today, who are the “other sheep”?
3. How can we help others hear The Good Shepherd’s voice?

The ultimate expression of The Good Shepherd’s love

Read John 10:17,18.

1. “The reason My Father loves Me is that I lay down My life.” Contrast these words with the Pharisees’ view of how The Father felt about Jesus when He was on the cross.
2. “I lay it down of My own accord.” How do these words emphasize Jesus’ love for you, personally?
3. Name something or someone, for which, you would be willing to lay down your life.
4. Which divine attribute does Jesus allude to in verse 18?

The Good Shepherd is not a demon

Read John 10:19-21.

The Jews had previously accused Jesus of being possessed by a demon. They realized that no mere human could make such claims about Himself.

Having heard Jesus’ words here in John chapter 10, what would you be able to confidently tell someone about Him?

Summary

The Good Shepherd protects our souls from harm by the power of His Word. Since He personally knows and loves each of us, the care He provides is uniquely suited to each one of us. So strong is His desire to save us that He personally seeks each one of us out and leads us into His sheep pen. Finally, He even gave up His own life to save us from our sins.

For further discussion

1. In light of Jesus words in verse 16 about “one flock,” discuss the following statement:
“Churches should get rid of their denominations and come together as one Christian group!”

2. Why might Jesus’ teaching in John chapter 10 be difficult for the following groups of people to appreciate?
 - Those who try to earn Heaven with good deeds

 - Those who think they are more important than others

 - Those who believe Jesus was only a prophet?

3. The most reassuring thing about this passage for me is that—
 - Jesus always has His eye on me.

 - All my needs are met by The Good Shepherd.

 - I have been made one of the sheep despite my sin.

 - No thief or stranger can take me away from Christ.

 - The Good Shepherd is striving to bring others I love into the sheep pen.