

Light and Life: Jesus in the Gospel of John

Today's message: **The Good Shepherd**

John 10:1-15 (ESV)

¹ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ **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.

Background: The excommunicated, formerly blind man of John 9

A **picture** of 1st century shepherding:

A few presuppositions to help us understand this passage:

People are like _____, and sheep need a _____.

The world is full of people who want to _____.

3 decisions I have to make ...

Who will I _____?

What will I _____?

Who will I _____?

There is only one Good _____

To call Jesus "good" is to call him _____! (See Mark 10:17)

KEY: The **2-way relationship** of shepherd to his sheep:

He _____ them (by name)

They _____ him (and respond to his voice)

Is my relationship with Jesus, The Good Shepherd, "**2-way**"?
(See: Matthew 7:21-23)

Jesus, the Compassionate Shepherd:

Matthew 9:36 (ESV)

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Only the shepherd ...

... _____ the sheep.

... _____ the sheep.

... _____ to the sheep.

... _____ for the sheep.

Matthew 9:37-38 (ESV)

³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

A note to Christians on 'harvest', prayer, and responsibility:

Conclusion: Who is my shepherd?

(see Psalm 23)