

What Does "Good Shepherd" Mean? - John 10:1-18

Calvary Chapel Nuevo, Pastor Dave, 1/10/26

READ JOHN 10:1-18

BIG IDEA: Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows you personally, protects and provides for you, and laid down his life for you - so you can follow Him into a rich, satisfying life.

WE ARE LIKE SHEEP, JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Psalm 100:3 (NLT) — *We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

Isaiah 53:6 (NLT) — *All of us, like sheep, have strayed away...*

- Sheep are helpless without a shepherd - they are completely dependent.
- God calls us 'sheep' because we are designed to live dependent on His care.

Charles Spurgeon: *There is more in Jesus the Good Shepherd, than you can pack away in a shepherd. He is the good, the great, the chief Shepherd - But He is so much more. Creation is too small a frame in which to hang His likeness. Human thought is too contracted, human speech too feeble to set Him forth to the full . . . He is inconceivably above our conceptions.*

1) THE GOOD SHEPHERD IS INTIMATELY FAMILIAR WITH YOU

John 10:3-5 (NLT) — *He calls his own sheep by name... they follow him because they know his voice.*

- In the communal sheepfold, the shepherd separated his flock by voice – He called them by name and they followed Him.
- Jesus does not drive His sheep; He leads them with His presence and His voice.
- Knowing His presence and his voice grows through nearness: Scripture, prayer, obedience, and time.

Personal Encouragement

Jesus knows your name and every detail of your life - even the parts you wish He did not know - and His love for you is still immeasurable.

Read Psalm 139:1-18 (NLT) — *O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me . . . Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand.*

2) THE GOOD SHEPHERD IS THE DOOR TO YOUR PROTECTION AND PROVISION

John 10:7, 9-10 (NLT) — *I am the gate... Those who come in through me will be saved... My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*

- Protection: Jesus is the only entrance into God's family - we are saved through Him.
- Provision: Through Jesus we 'find good pastures' - daily grace, guidance, strength, and peace.
- Abundant life is not the same as abundant stuff; it is a life anchored in the Shepherd.

Read Psalm 23:1-6 (NLT) — *The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need . . . My cup overflows with blessings.*

3) THE GOOD SHEPHERD LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR YOU

John 10:11 (NLT) — *The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.*

John 10:17-18 (NLT) — *No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily...*

- Jesus is not a hired hand - He owns the flock by purchase (His blood).
- His death was not forced; it was chosen love.
- He laid down His life - and He took it up again (resurrection authority).

John 10:14-16 (NLT) — *I know my own sheep, and they know me... there will be one flock with one shepherd.*

HOW TO RESPOND TODAY

- Listen: Where is Jesus calling you to trust Him right now?
- Enter: If you have never come through the Door, come to Jesus by faith today.
- Follow: Take one clear step of obedience this week - even if it's small.
- Rest: Trade fear and self-reliance for the Shepherd's care and provision.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you are my Good Shepherd. Thank You for knowing me, guarding me, and giving Your life for me. Teach me to recognize Your voice and follow You into the life You give. Amen.