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Jesus: the Good Shepherd

John 10:1-21, 26-30; Psalm 23

- 1) Characteristics of sheep
 - a) Not-so-bright; no ability to seek food or water (*depraved*)
 - b) Sociable; wander easily (*all have gone astray*);
 - c) No sense of direction (*must be drawn to Christ*)
 - d) Filthy, in need of shepherd's help (*weighed down by sin*)
 - e) No defense; easily frightened (*need spiritual weapons*)
- 2) Believers in Christ are God's humble sheep, transformed from vicious beasts
- 3) The Shepherd cares perfectly for His sheep (Psalm 23)
- 4) False shepherds (cults, music, pop-preachers, politicians)
 - a) *His watchmen are blind...no understanding... turned to their own way... for unjust gain* (Isa 56:10-11)
 - b) *The shepherds have not sought the Yahweh; the flock is scattered* (Jer 10:21)
 - c) *My people are lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray* (Jer 50:6)
- 5) Believers in Christ secure for eternity (10:28; cf. Rom. 8:31-39; Eph. 1:13-14)
- 6) True sheep: hear and heed Christ's voice (10:3)
- 7) There are wolves among the sheep (Matt 7:15; Acts 20:29; 2 Pet 2:1; 1 Jn 4:1)
- 8) Gatekeepers = Christ's under-shepherds (pastors, elders)
- 9) Abundant life: sleep, hope (no worries), peace (going Home); God's rod & staff

