I AM: The Good Shepherd

Key Scripture: John 10:10-18

"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. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

- Background/ Context
  - John 10:1-6 connects as well.
    - "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."
- The Good Shepherd
  - Knows His sheep and His sheep know Him
- Trouble in the Text
  - Lack of understanding
    - They accuse Jesus of strange things.
    - Their allegiances are with some other "hired hand"

- Trouble in the World
  - Misguided allegiances
    - People put much of their faith and trust in groups or organizations that are flawed.
- Ask Good Questions
  - Who do you provide your time, money, loyalty, and trust?
    - What do they provide you?
  - What *other ways* are you trusting them?
    - What *else* do they ask of you?
  - What would it take to break allegiance?
- Supermarkets, Celebrities, and Influencers
  - What sort of relationships exist with “hired hands”?
- Grace in the Text
  - **Hired Hands**- where their loyalty begins and end
    - Services for Money
    - “He flees because he is a hired hand and *cares nothing for the sheep*.” (John 10:13)
  - **The Good Shepherd**- where His loyalty begins and ends
    - Selfless Sacrifice
    - “I lay my life down for the sheep.” (John 10:15)
- A Love we can Rely on
  - 1 John 4:15-19
    - “If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence

on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19 We love because He first loved us."

- Grace in the World
  - People Seek Unconditional Love!
    - The Good News!
      - Jesus has no Rival!
- The Good Shepherd
  - The Good Shepherd *seeks* after His lost sheep
- Luke 15:1-7
  - Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

    3 So he told them this parable: 4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.
- Application
  - Never Give Up Hope!