

# I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

## I AM: PART FOUR

September 2, 2018

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John 10 / Psalm 23

TV

<sup>11</sup> “**I am the good shepherd**. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. <sup>13</sup> The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep.

<sup>14</sup> “**I am the good shepherd**; I know my own sheep, and they know me, <sup>15</sup> just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

<sup>17</sup> “The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. <sup>18</sup> No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.”

John 10:10–18 (NLT)

TV

## WHAT BAD SHEPHERDS DO

### 1. **USE** THE SHEEP.

*“Everything they do is for show...they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues. They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi.’” (Matthew 23:5–7, NLT)*

### 2. **ABUSE** THE SHEEP.

*“Yes,” said Jesus, “what sorrow also awaits you experts in religious law! For you crush people with unbearable religious demands, and you never lift a finger to ease the burden.” (Luke 11:46, NLT)*

### 3. **LOSE** THE SHEEP.

*“A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep.” (John 10:12–13, NLT)*

## WHAT THE GOOD SHEPHERD DOES FOR HIS SHEEP

### 1. HE **PLACES** ME IN HIS FLOCK.

*“...the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name...But you don't believe me because you are not my sheep.” (John 10:3,26 NLT)*

*“The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows...” (Psalm 23:1–2, NLT)*

*“You are my flock, the sheep of my pasture. You are my people, and I am your God. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!” (Ezekiel 34:31, NLT)*

*“He is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care.” (Psalm 95:7, NLT)*

## **WHY GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE SHEEP**

- Sheep **WANDER**.  
*“I have wandered away like a lost sheep; come and find me, for I have not forgotten your commands.” (Psalm 119:176, NLT)*
- Sheep are **WEAK**.  
*“...he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.” (Isaiah 53:7, NIV)*
- Sheep are **WILLFUL**.  
*“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way...” (Isaiah 53:6, NIV)*
- Sheep are **WORTH** it!  
*“He takes care of his people like a shepherd. He gathers them like lambs in his arms and carries them close to him...” (Isaiah 40:11, NCV)*

**TRUTH:** I need a flock to flourish.

**ACTION STEP: ACCEPT CHRIST & BE BAPTIZED**

## **2. HE GIVES MY LIFE PURPOSE.**

*“The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” (John 10:3, NLT)*

*“...he leads me beside peaceful streams...He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.” (Psalm 23:2-3, NLT)*

*“You guided your people like a flock of sheep, and you chose Moses and Aaron to be their leaders.” (Psalm 77:20, CEV)*

*“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11–12, NLT)*

**TRUTH:** I need a purpose to prosper.

**ACTION: RUN THE BASES**

**3. HE COMFORTS ME WITH HIS PRESENCE.**

*“Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me.” (Psalm 23:4a, NLT)*

*“After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice.” (John 10:4, NLT)*

*“For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20, NLT)*

**TRUTH:** I need a FOLD (church) and a FLOCK (SG).

**ACTION: HOST/JOIN A SG**

**4. HE CORRECTS AND PROTECTS ME.**

*“Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4b, NLT)*

*“Blessed is the one whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For he wounds, but he also binds up; he injures, but his hands also heal.” (Job 5:17–18, NIV)*

*“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock.” (John 10:11–12, NLT)*

**TRUTH:** I need correction and protection.

**ACTION: I NEED COACHES / COUNSELORS**

**5. HE PROVIDES FOR ME ABUNDANTLY.**

*“You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.” (Psalm 23:5, NLT)*

*“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:9–10, NKJV)*

**TRUTH:** I need to transfer my trust.

**ACTION STEPS: 90-DAY TITHE CHALLENGE**

**6. HE PROMISES ME ETERNAL LIFE.**

*“Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.” (Psalm 23:6, NLT)*

*“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father’s hand.” (John 10:28–29, NLT)*

*“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’” (Luke 15:4–6, NIV)*

**TRUTH:** I need to rest in His promises!

**ACTION STEP: FOUNDATIONS – STARTS WEDNESDAY!**