



I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

“THE THIEF COMES ONLY TO STEAL AND KILL AND DESTROY. I CAME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY.”

JOHN 10:10

WHY SO LONG IN JOHN?

- To give the book its due.
- There's a beauty that is grown in us when we sit in one book for a long period of time.
→ The themes and message of this book will stick with you decades to come.
- To get a clear glimpse of who Jesus is so that our love for him would grow.

In the book of John, Jesus makes seven “I am” statements. The two we'll study tonight are bolded:

- I am the bread of life (6:35)
- I am the light of the world (8:12)
- **I am the door (10:7)**
- **I am the good shepherd (10:11)**
- I am the resurrection and the life (11:25)
- I am the way, and the truth, and the life (14:6)
- I am the true vine (15:1, 5)

“Both have to do with salvation. As the Door he is the one way of entering salvation. As the Good Shepherd he is the one who cares for the sheep and proves for their salvation at the cost of his life.”¹ – **Leon Morris**

BIG IDEA:

The Good Shepherd gives abundant life
to those who follow Him.

WHAT IS ABUNDANT LIFE?

“... *life ... to the full* suggests fat, contented, flourishing sheep, not terrorized by brigands; outside the narrative world, it means that the life Jesus' true disciples enjoy is not to be construed as more time to fill (merely 'everlasting' life), but life at its scarcely imagined best, life to be lived.”² – **D. A. Carson**

1. Total contentment.
2. Deep soul satisfaction.
3. Overflowing joy.
4. Complete peace.

“The Greek *perisson* means “that which goes way beyond necessity.” John wanted all his readers to know that the gift of Jesus is life beyond our wildest dreams.”³ – **Gerald Borchert**

THIEVES AND ROBBERS...

“Two Greek words for life, *bios*, from which we get biology from-*bios* speaks of inhaling and exhaling. He doesn't use *bios*. He uses *zoe*. *Zoe* speaks of a quality kind of life. A life rich with meaning and value and substance. The problem with too many people in our world today: they have *bios* but not *zoe*. They're inhaling and exhaling, they got the Teslas, they got the Range Rovers, they got the Audis... but you've got all that stuff... and here's the crazy thing man, you're going, 'something's missing.' And what's missing is *zoe*! Jesus says, 'I haven't just come for you to breathe. I've come for you to *really live*.’”⁴ – **Bryan Loritts**

¹ Leon Morris, *The Gospel according to John*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995), 449.

² D. A. Carson, *The Gospel according to John*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans, 1991), 385.

³ Gerald L. Borchert, *John 1–11*, vol. 25A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 333.

⁴ Loritts, Bryan. “NEXT: Friendship with God” *Abundant Life Christian Fellowship*, 28 May 2017, <https://www.alcf.net/next>.

Thieves and Robbers can't give you what they promise.
Thieves and Robbers care only for their own well-being.
Thieves and Robbers concerned only with their own interests.
Thieves and Robbers leave the sheep when they are in trouble.

LIFE... ABUNDANT LIFE...

1. Is only given to those who enter through the Door (v. 9)
 - o "I am the door." - Jesus
 - o There is one way to become part of God's flock-enter through Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 - "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through me.**"

John 20:30-31 - "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, **and that by believing you may have life in his name.**"

2. Is enjoyed by those who listen to and follow the Good Shepherd. (vv. 3-4, 10-16)

The Good Shepherd delivers on his promise.
The Good Shepherd planned to die for his sheep.
The Good Shepherd's death means life for the sheep.
The Good Shepherd never leaves in the face of trouble.

Total contentment, overflowing abundance. Ultimate satisfaction is found in the fields of Jesus.

Psalms 23 - "**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.** He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

The word for *good* "means 'beautiful' as well as 'good,' and Rieu translates 'I am the shepherd, the Shepherd Beautiful.'... it is important that the word for 'good' here is one that represents, not the moral rectitude of goodness, not its austerity, but its attractiveness. We must not forget that our vocation is to practice virtue that men are won to it; it is possible to be morally upright repulsively."⁵

3. Is able to be enjoyed by us because the Good Shepherd sacrificed his. (vv. 10-11)

AIM FOR THE HEART.

1. To the one who opposes Christ, there is still time. (v. 20)
2. To the one who is unsure about Christ, look at the living proof. (v. 21)
3. To the one who loves Christ but struggles to show that love each day, your Shepherd knows you and loves you. Keep following. (v. 27)

⁵ Footnote 36 in Leon Morris, *The Gospel according to John*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995), 453.