



JESUS: Sent to Earth
JESUS: Sent to Build the Church - Good Shepherd
John 10:11 | Psalm 23:1a & 4c
Eric Smith
February 14, 2021

Sermon Summary

In the last of Jesus' public declarations as recorded in John's Gospel. Jesus states, "I am the Good Shepherd." The original hearers were very familiar with shepherds because the landscape was dotted with them. Across the hills and the valleys in many of the places Jesus travelled shepherds tending their flocks was a common sight. There was also ready comprehension of the greater implication of what Jesus emphatically declared. "I AM" is the name God gave himself in response to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you." Ex 3:14 NLT. Those original hearers were also familiar with the opening line of Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd." Jesus was stating that He was God and that He was good. Jesus shepherds His people and as THE GOOD SHEPHERD, He is tending His flock and BUILDING His Church. As the Good Shepherd, how does Jesus treat His sheep as He builds His church?

Diving Into The Message

*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. **John 10:11 NLT**
The Lord is my shepherd. . .your ROD and your STAFF protect and comfort me. **Psalm 23:1a & 4c***

The Good Shepherd's ROD and STAFF.

A ROD was used for guarding and protecting.

A STAFF was used for guiding and directing.

- **The ROD represents Power and Authority**
- **The STAFF represents Care and Compassion**

*Our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, **Hebrews 13:20b NLT***

*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. **John 10:11 NLT***

*14 I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, 15 just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. 16 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. **John 10:11; 14-16 NLT***

How Does Jesus Treat His Sheep?

Jesus: The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

John 10:10-11 NLT

WHEN I BRING HIM MY HURTS, JESUS SHOWS ME COMPASSION.

When Jesus saw the crowds, his heart was filled with compassion for them because they were hurting and didn't know where to get help. They were like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36

I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me" John 11:14 NLT

- **Action Plan:** Write out your pain on paper, read it in prayer and release it to your Good Shepherd.

WHEN I CHOOSE TO FOLLOW HIM JESUS LEADS ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Jesus: 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

Psalm 23

- **Action Plan:** Use Psalm 23 a morning prayer and road map each day.

WHEN I FAIL OR FALL JESUS RESCUES AND RECOVERS ME

Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. **Psalm 100:3 NLT**

If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it?

Luke 15:4 NLT

- **Action Plan:** Don't go it alone! Seek out a Life Group or Celebrate Recovery (CR) and find help for your hurts, habits, and hang-ups in community. (Text GROUP to 228-265-5020 for a list of our FBCG Life Groups. Participate in CR that meets in the AMP on campus Sunday nights at 5 pm)

WHEN I TRUST HIM TO SAVE ME JESUS KEEPS ME SAVED

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 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. John 10:27-29 NLT

Now may the God of peace - who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood - may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen. Hebrews 13:20&21 NLT

- **Action Plan:** Take the next step to learn more about who God is and what the Bible teaches by going to fbcgulfport.org/trust.

LIFE APPLICATION SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Life Application Questions

1. Considering the meanings of the metaphors for the rod and staff, why do you think Jesus is the Great Shepherd for us?
2. Keeping in mind the metaphor of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, how have you experienced the compassion of Christ in your distress? (See Mathew 9:36)
3. Read Psalm 23. List the ways the Good Shepherd actively cares for His own. (You should find at least ten ways the Good Shepherd takes care of His own.) After making the list, personalize it. Think of the times He has shepherded you just like He promises in Psalm 23.
4. We are not called to follow Jesus alone. If you are working through this discussion guide with your group, sharing ways belonging to a group has helped you in your relationship with Jesus.
5. Read John 10:27-29 and Hebrews 13:20&21. Thank the Good Shepherd for the eternal life He has given you. Think of and pray for one person in your life that you would like to introduce to the Good Shepherd. Ask God to open up the opportunity for you to share a word of testimony regarding how the Good Shepherd has treated you.