

## The True Nature of God Session 5 – Jesus the Good Shepherd

### I. Review

#### A. Session 1 – Knowing God Vs Knowing About God

#### B. Session 2 – God’s Nature of Goodness

#### C. Session 3 – The Nature of God Revealed in Jesus

#### D. Session 4 – Old Testament/New Testament Differences

### II. Jesus The Good Shepherd

#### A. The Comparison of God as Shepherd is seen in the Old and New Testament.

1. In Psalm 23 – David – *“The Lord is my Shepherd”*.
2. In John 10:11 – Jesus, *“I am the Good Shepherd”*.
3. Since both Old and New Testaments make reference to the shepherd analogy, there must be something of great value in looking at the Lord as a shepherd.

#### B. Jesus Reference to Himself as Shepherd

1. **John 10:10-11 (NKJV)** – <sup>10</sup>*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.* <sup>11</sup>*“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*
  - a. In the Old Testament, David simply states, “The Lord is my Shepherd”.
  - b. In the New Testament, Jesus adds emphasis by using the word “GOOD” to declare His nature.

- c. **John 10:14 (NKJV)** – *I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.*
- d. **Good Definition** – beautiful, excellent, choice, surpassing, precious and useful – Good and excellent in its nature and characteristics.
- e. Jesus representing the Father – declares that as shepherd of the sheep, HE is GOOD and excellent in all things – his nature and characteristics are GOOD!
- f. As my shepherd, the Lord is always leading me into GOOD – never the opposite.
- g. **Notice** – In John 10:10, Jesus contrast himself with the devil. Our shepherd should never be confused with our enemy the devil.

### C. The Revelation of a what a Good Shepherd does in Psalm 23.

- 1. **Psalm 23:1 (NKJV)** – *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*
  - a. **Want Definition** – to lack, be without or decrease. To be lacking or have a need – also implies failure
  - b. **Philippians 4:19 (KJV)** – *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*
  - c. **Luke 22:35 (NKJV)** – *And He said to them, "When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?" So they said, "Nothing."*
  - d. **Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)** – *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*
  - e. The Lord as my good shepherd is my provider and He always has good and plentiful provision for his sheep.
  - f. **Jehovah Jireh** – The Lord Will Provide – The nature of the Good Shepherd is to provide. *It is His nature to provide for me.*
  - g. **Psalms 37:25 (KJV)** – *I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*

**Psalms 37:25 (AMP)** – *I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous (those in right standing with God) abandoned Or his descendants pleading for bread.*

2. **Psalms 23:2 (NKJV)** – *He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.*

Green Pastures – Still Waters – refer to the quality of His provision.  
*Whatever He provides is Good – or leading to more good.*

3. **Psalms 23:3 (NKJV)** – *He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.*

Paths of Righteousness – the right path that leads to the blessed life.

4. **Psalms 23:4 (NKJV)** – *Yea, 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.*

Wherever and whatever I find in throughout the journey of life, HE is with me- His rod and staff are at work on my behalf.

5. **Psalms 23:5-6 (NKJV)** – <sup>5</sup>*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever*

- a. **Goodness** – good – excellence – prosperity and happiness, good things, good benefits
- b. **Follow** – To pursue – chase – to be behind you, to follow after or running after you.
- c. Because the Lord is my Shepherd, Goodness is running after me to overtake me.

### III. Closing Thoughts

#### A. The quality of the life of the sheep is determined by the shepherd.

*Our shepherd takes GOOD CARE of His sheep!*

1. God doesn't want His sheep to lack.
2. God doesn't want His sheep to be weak and sickly.
3. God doesn't want His sheep to fail.
4. God doesn't want His sheep to be prey for enemies.
5. God's covenant plan for His people was always to bless them.

#### B. **Matthew 9:36 (NKJV)** – *But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.*

1. Jesus did not want the people to live their lives without a shepherd.
2. To live without a shepherd was the opposite of the blessed life.

Scattered abroad = They were in need of care. – without care.