



**Pastor Jason Carter - July 17, 2022**

**I AM The Good Shepherd** - John 10:11-18

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

There are two relationship concepts used consistently in the NT between God and us: Father to His children and Shepherd to sheep.

- Father- near
- Shepherd - care

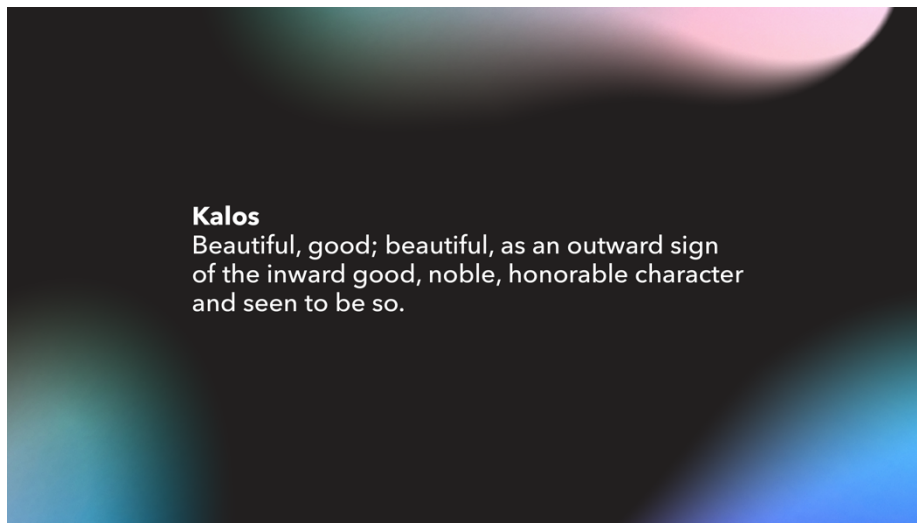
Have you ever been told that something was good, but then it was not? "This restaurant is good", or "that movie is good". Good is subjective for most people.

We do not have true understanding of good because every definition of something in this life has a sense of imperfection connected with it, and the potential of not living up to the expectation.

Pastor Jason's new hobby - painting - is teaching him about color. A concept called Color Constancy is that your brain tells you what color you're seeing, but it may not be the actual color you're looking at.

- This phenomenon helps the brain be efficient
- The problem is that it fills in the gaps of what is being seen with what you have already seen so that you are not actually seeing in the present
- It's seeing only what you expect to see or how you *remember* it
- With regard to "good", our definition is limited based on what we *\*think\** it is

## So, what is GOOD?



Jesus is telling the religious leaders:

- This is who I am
- I am good, unlike you, and you can see it
- Look at everything that I do, everything that I am - it is GOOD

We must stop here and ask: **is God good? Do you believe He is good? Do you believe He is good to you?**

Jesus is introducing himself as the Good Shepherd. He is revealing who He is, as well as who he wants to be to us.

- I lay down my life for the sheep- Good Shepherd and true shepherd
- This is a truth in daily life as well as a prophetic declaration of the cross
- Jesus purchased our freedom from sin

In order to truly understand God's goodness when we are wrestling through things in our daily life and begin to question his goodness, we have to understand the process that he takes us through.

### **Regeneration**

- Coming back to life. When you confess Jesus as Lord and your spirit comes alive, your heart is touched, your eyes are opened to who God is, and you can begin to understand his word. You have conviction.

### **Justification**

- (Romans) Jesus died for our sin; we are unworthy of his perfect, sinless sacrifice, and we can do nothing to improve upon it.
- Imagine you are in court for a crime: suddenly, an unexpected deal has been struck, you're declared not guilty and your case has been closed and sealed. This is what it means to be saved.

- God now chooses to see you through the lens of his perfect Son. He sees you as saved, as forgiven, as holy, as set apart.
- Now there is a process we go through to become more and more like Jesus

### **Sanctification**

- A lifelong journey of God convicting and walking with us to overcome sin
- It doesn't mean we won't sin; it means He won't let us stay in our sin
- He brings conviction, correction, direction, prompting us to make changes

### **Why is this important?**

Because He is the Shepherd of our LIFE. He is the Shepherd of our soul. He meets us on the mountaintop, He meets us in the valley, He meets us on our worst day, meets us on our best day, and WALKS US THROUGH.

John 10:12-13 <sup>12</sup>The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. <sup>13</sup>The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

- A hired hand had no responsibility for attacks from wild animals (Ex 22:13) and worked for pay, not because the sheep were his own.
- Religious leaders have acted as hired hands
- Example: Dominican mafia in NYC. They come alongside "mom & pop" shops and offer to protect them, but they have to pay. Then the question becomes "who is going to protect those shops from the Dominican mafia?"  
- pay for safety but not safe from the people who are being paid

Matthew 9:36 NIV "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

- Harassed meaning- comes from a word meaning to skin, to trouble; to flay. Like an animal going to slaughter
- Helpless- to cast off and to scatter
- Jesus was to heal, calm and gather

They were living and operating like they knew they were going to their death

Who or what are we listening to? Are we being harassed? Driven? Are we listening to the Good Shepherd?

How many of us are held back by the idea that God is a tyrant...vindictive...wanting to make life miserable for us? As the shepherd, He knows what we need, and it is always for our care, the care of our soul, and relationship with Him.

- He was willing to lay down His life for us
- The cross is our proof

### **The Sheep**

V 3 - They recognize (KNOW) the voice of the shepherd.

V 4 - They follow the shepherd.

V 5, 8 - They refuse to follow strangers.

V 9 - Their safety and sustenance is in the shepherd

The Bible does not describe us as *cattle*. Cattle are driven forward, *sheep are led*.

<sup>14</sup>"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—"

### **Ginōskō**

Properly, to know, especially through personal experience

### **Read: Psalm 23:1-3 ESV**

In the first part of this psalm, David writes from the standpoint of how God leads us like a shepherd leads sheep. The second part is from Father to children.

**"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."**

- He solely will meet desires only He can fulfill
- He will teach to desire what he desires

**<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures.**

**He leads me beside still waters.<sup>[a]</sup><sup>3</sup> He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness<sup>[b]</sup> for his name's sake.**

### **4 Requirements for Sheep to Rest**

1. Free from fear
2. Free from fighting with other sheep
3. Free from pests
4. Free from hunger

It is the shepherd who helps to meet these needs so the sheep will rest. The presence of the shepherd brings rest.

**The Bible does not describe us as cattle.** Cattle are driven forward, sheep are led. God does not drive us, He leads us, guides us, knows intimately what we need.

John 10:15 “...just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

- He is making a prophetic declaration

John 10:16 “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.”

- These are the Gentiles who would hear and receive salvation

John 10:17 “The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.”

- We see this relationship and obedience factor at play

John 10:18 “No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

- He has authority over life and death and has attributed himself as God
- ‘I know your plans to kill me, but I have already determined to give my life and by doing so, it proves who I actually am’
- ‘You have no authority over me. This has been predetermined and you are but a pawn’

When we look at the second part of Psalm 23, it is more impactful in light of the cross  
Psalm 23:4-6 ESV

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,<sup>[a]</sup>

- Death could mean many things (death of relationship, dream, ideal...)
- A shadow is cast when something is near

I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, (for leading and protection)  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely<sup>[d]</sup> goodness and mercy<sup>[e]</sup> shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell<sup>[f]</sup> in the house of the Lord  
forever.<sup>[g]</sup>

“My cup *overflows*”  
means God, you  
*never* want me to  
leave your  
presence.

There is a notable insight into that statement “my cup overflows.” In Middle Eastern culture, hospitality has great significance, and if someone invited you into dinner, the amount of liquid you got in your cup told you how long you were welcome to stay. If your glass was half full, you were welcome to stay through dinner. If you got a full cup, you were welcome to stay all night.

David says “my cup overflows” ...**God, you never want me to leave your presence**

This is what we have to understand about **sanctification**. When we struggle, we think God wants to be removed from us until we get our behavior right. But God is saying *"Don't you know? I never want you to leave my presence. I am the shepherd committed to LEADING you in every aspect of your life until I make you more and more like Jesus."*

### **Our God is good.**

In the valley of death, God is good.

When He makes us lie down, God is good.

When He leads us and we don't want to be led. God is good

When life happens, God is good.

When we are in the presence of enemies, God is good,

When we don't feel worthy, God is good

The Shepherd knows His sheep and the sheep know His voice.

### **It's not enough to listen or read a message. We must practice declaration,**

because there is power when we take these truths and declare them with our mouth.

Take some time to pray and speak back to God his promises:

- I protect you/"I know you will protect me, God."
- I lead you/"You will lead me."
- I take care of you/"You will take care of me."
- I am committed to you/"My hope is in your commitment to me."
- You have 'pests'? Issues, fears, sin. I will tend to you/"You will care for me and those things that cause me not to rest."
- I have you, protect you, will see you through every situation/"You will meet me and see me through every situation God."

### **Questions to consider:**

- Is your version of the shepherd a 'hired hand' or do you believe He is truly good?
- How has this understanding shaped your journey of sanctification?
- Do you KNOW (Ginosko) your Shepherd through personal experience?
- What is the Lord speaking to your heart, and what is your response today?