

## **Raised for More - A Trusted Voice**

*Psalm 23:1-6; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-15*

If you have the slightest clue about life in this world, you know it's a \_\_\_\_\_ world and we don't always have the \_\_\_\_\_ we need to navigate life as well as we'd like. We need guidance!

Unfortunately, there's no shortage of people offering their "trusted voice" to \_\_\_\_\_. It's a noisy world, full of voices vying for our \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_. Political, financial, cultural, family, media, inner, artificial...

But these \_\_\_\_\_ are not always as trustworthy as they make themselves out to be.

Some sound good, but want to take \_\_\_\_\_ of us.

Others sound good and may even want to help, but...won't \_\_\_\_\_ their own skin.

Others sound good, but simply can't help the way we want or \_\_\_\_\_.

That's why we need a \_\_\_\_\_ - the GOOD Shepherd! He is not like the thief, nor the hired hand.

He does not come to \_\_\_\_\_ the sheep. "*He goes before them...the sheep follow him...*"

He does not run away when \_\_\_\_\_ comes.

He can \_\_\_\_\_ help. He has authority to lay down his life AND take it up again. (John 10:17-18)

The key is knowing how to \_\_\_\_\_ the voice of the Good Shepherd from the sea of other voices.

It's not based solely on how it \_\_\_\_\_.

It's not based solely on how it makes us \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the message and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the message matter most.

Is it something the Good Shepherd would \_\_\_\_\_?

Is it something only the Good Shepherd would \_\_\_\_\_?

Is it something that is for your \_\_\_\_\_ or only theirs?

Developing this \_\_\_\_\_ requires a lot more than 1 sermon or 1 Sunday morning worship service.

Consider how well you know the voice of a \_\_\_\_\_, a child, or a spouse. How long did it take to get there?

Consider how much \_\_\_\_\_ you spend in the Word and in worship. Consider the time you spend in \_\_\_\_\_, conversation and fellowship with other brothers and sisters. Is it anywhere close to where it needs to be?

Throughout Easter we have seen just how closely connected mission and \_\_\_\_\_ is to our calling as disciples. How can we point others to our Good Shepherd if we aren't all that \_\_\_\_\_ on what he's saying? How can we invite others to follow him if we aren't crystal clear on \_\_\_\_\_ he is leading us?

*What voices compete for your attention and trust most?*

*How is God leading you to better distinguish between thieves, hired hands, and the Good Shepherd?*

*In what areas do you need a better grasp of God's Word?*

*How is he calling you to not only hear the Word but obey the Word and follow where our Shepherd leads?*

*What are you going to DO about it?*