

- The context is the same – [7:37-10:21](#) ... No doubt, many who heard Jesus proclaim, “I am the Bread of Life,” also heard Him proclaim, “Come to Me and drink,” as well as, “I am the Light of the World” and “I am the Gate” and “I am the Good Shepherd” ... If anyone didn’t see who Jesus was, it wasn’t because He refused to reveal Himself ... Why do people not see – because of spiritual blindness ... Pharisees are example of this ... Person who chooses to be blind, and to stay in their blindness, lives in greater darkness than a person born without sight ...
- Words of Jesus in [Jo10](#) mimic words of God in [Ez34](#) ... In rebuking the corrupt shepherds of Judah, God promises to shepherd those who belong to Him, and to seek after His sheep who’ve been scattered ... He also promises to send His Own Shepherd who will care for and lead the sheep that belong to Him ... In rebuking the blind shepherds of Judah, Jesus declares that He is God’s appointed and promised Shepherd ... And no one belongs to the Father unless they enter through the way that Jesus alone provides – [10:7-9](#) ...
 - Before Jesus begins His ministry, others claimed to be a messiah ([Acts5:36-37](#)) ... So, what sets Jesus apart from them? ... Only He claimed to be the Son of God, and equal with God, and He was able to prove this by the miracles He did and the message He spoke ... Greatest proof of His legitimacy – His resurrection ... [Acts2:24,32-33](#); [Rom1:3-4](#); [Heb1:2-3](#) ... The One who owns the sheep, is the sole Shepherd of the sheep, and the only entrance by which a person can become part of His flock ... This is what Jesus apart ...
- A strong bond exists between a shepherd and his sheep ... Sheep require constant care; don’t possess ability to defend themselves, or properly care for themselves ... Shepherd provides what they need to survive – food, water, grooming, protection ... He knows each one, and calls them by name ... In return the sheep know his face, respond to his voice, follow his lead ... So, it’s with the Good Shepherd and His sheep ... Here [good](#) means, a [good that is attractive, comforting](#); a [good that’s superior](#) ... How is Jesus the Good Shepherd ...
 - [3-4](#) written in the singular, meaning, when Jesus calls you to follow Him, He does so personally – He knows your name ... He knows everything about you ... [Gal4:9](#) ... [Gen16](#) El-Roi ... His knowledge of us is primary to our knowledge of Him ... [Packer](#) ... In knowing us, He knows exactly what we need and when we need it ... Even when it feels like God takes His time in showing up, He is never late – nor is He ever early ... He is always there at the exact moment with the exact answer ... More than what He provides, Jesus is the Good Shepherd because of what He does on our behalf – He lays down His life **for** His sheep ...
- Those who right now belong to the Shepherd ... In God’s kindness, and according to His eternal plan, there came a time when He supernaturally removed the veil from your eyes, causing you to see and understand what had been previously hidden from you ... [2Cor4:4-6](#) ... So, you entered the sheep pen by believing in Jesus ... By believing in Him, you made a turn – in mind and direction ... You began to know Him ... You began to follow His leading ... You began to trust Him ... The voice of Jesus is different than the voice of the world, the enemy, and our own ... Do you know His voice; can you discern His voice from others ... Do you know Him ...
 - For the Christian, eternal life begins as soon as you enter in through Jesus ... It’s not something we have to wait to experience ... It’s something we experience right now ... And the deeper we grow in knowing Jesus, the greater we experience the reality of the life He gives us ... [Jo17:1-5](#) ...
- Those who not yet belong to the Shepherd ... Jesus must go after the sheep that aren’t currently part of His flock ... The sheep are scattered about ... Notice He says that these lost sheep belong to Him ... To Jesus they are already part of His flock, even before they enter His fold ... [Calvin](#), “we are already God’s sheep, before we are aware that He’s our Shepherd” ... [1Pet2:25](#) ([Rom5:8,10](#); [Eph2:1-4](#)) ... [Vs16](#) is talking about you and me – literally ...

- He MUST do this ... **Luk15:1-7; 19:1-10** ... The kindness of God that leads us to repentance is seen in the attractive kindness and grace of the Good Shepherd ... People come to Him and believe in Him because He has come after them with all that He is ... He must seek them ... It is necessary for Him to seek the lost ... Wherever they are, whatever He finds them doing ... There is NO sin that keeps Him from seeking after the very ones that belong to Him ... And there is NO sin of ours that will cause Him to give up on us or reject us ...
 - Jesus stepped into our sin, He took on our sin, and became sin, enduring the punishment for sin ... How will He not go to the greatest extremes necessary to make us what He has always known us to be ...
- Once He has found us, He never lets us go ... The “sheep pen” is His hands ... While we certainly have a role in living out our salvation, the security of our salvation rests in the hands of the One who has purchased our salvation ... It’s His salvation, that He graciously gives to those who come to Him ... He is the only One who makes the final call on who’s in and who’s out ... And Scripture again and again testifies that those who have come to Him in faith, also securely remain with Him in faith ... Our security is a gift of grace ... It is not earned ... It is not worked for ... It is something that you and I are to rest in – to securely rest in ...
- The Bread of Life is our salvation ... The Light of the World reveals our need for salvation ... The Good Shepherd leads us in the way of salvation ...

There is tremendous relief in knowing that His love to me is utterly realistic, based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me, so that no discovery now can disillusion Him about me, in the way I am so often disillusioned about myself, and quench His determination to bless me. There is, certainly, great cause for humility in the thought that He sees all the twisted things about me that my fellow-men do not see, and that He sees more corruption in me than that which I see in myself. There is, however, equally great incentive to worship and love God in the thought that, for some unfathomable reason, He wants me as His friend, and desires to be my friend, and has given His Son to die for me in order to realize this purpose.

– J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*