

JESUS the Good Shepherd Text: John 10:1-18

Who Lays Down His Life for His People

Introduction:

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1. **The Image of a Shepherd is woven throughout Israel's history...**
 - a. **Moses** was a Shepherd for 40 years before Leading Israel Out of Egyptian Slavery
 - b. **David** was a Shepherd Before Becoming King of Israel
 - c. **Jesus** refers to Himself as the Good Shepherd who guides and protects His Sheep.
 2. **Wolves re-introduced into Idaho... Sheep w/o a shepherd are not safe from attack**
 3. **The Release of Human Predators into a Population is even more dangerous**
Christians who wander away from the Lord are not safe from attack...
 4. **The Life and Work of the Shepherd was not easy: Then or Now...**
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I. THE SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP

A. THE WORK OF A SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP

1. The main part of Judea was a central plateau mostly rough and rocky
2. There were crags and cliffs that led to low land deserts and ravines
3. So with limited grass and no fences or protective walls...
the sheep were liable to stray away and get lost
4. There were Also the Dangers of Wolves Attacking the Sheep
5. And the Threat of Thieves trying their to Steal the Sheep...
6. **No flock ever grazed without a shepherd—and he was never off duty.**
 - a) **George Adam Smith, was an O.T. scholar who travelled in Palestine:**
“On some high moor across which at night the hyaenas howl, when you meet him, sleepless, far-sighted, weather-beaten, armed, leaning on his staff and looking out over his scattered sheep, every one of them on his heart, you understand why the shepherd of Judaea sprang to the front in his people's history; why they gave his name to the king and made him the symbol of providence; why Christ took him as the type of self-sacrifice.”¹
7. **A good Shepherd had constant vigilance, fearless courage and patient love for his flock**

B. THE IMAGE OF SHEPHERDS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. **GOD:** In the Old Testament, God is often pictured as the shepherd, and the people as his flock. (Psalm 23:1 > Psalm 100:3 > Psalm 79:13)
2. **THE MESSIAH:** was prophesied and described as a shepherd (Isaiah 40:11)
3. **LEADERS:** also referred to as shepherds of Israel (Jer 23:1 > Ezek 34:2).

¹ William Barclay, John Vol.2 p.61

II. THE DANGER OF BAD SHEPHERDS

Not All Shepherds Are Good Shepherds...

A. NOT ALL SHEPHERDS PROVIDE FOR THE FLOCK

1. **The Pharisees & Sadducees were the religious leaders & teachers of Israel, but they were not faithful shepherds....**
 - a) They Cared More About themselves then they did for God's flock
 - b) They Devoured Widows Houses...
 - c) Loved the Chief Seats and to be called Rabbi in the Streets
 - d) They Said Long Pretentious Prayers to be heard of men (Matthew 23:1–7; 14)
 - e) They Didn't Feed the Flock w/ the Word of God...
because they were teaching their own Doctrines of Men...
 - f) They Put Heavy Burdens on the People and Then Banished them from the Temple or Synagogues if they Didn't Agree
2. **Today there is a New Generation of Woke Pharisees— Leaders Who Want the Praise of Men More than the Praise of God...**
 - a) Today God's People Are Shunned by a Cult of Woke Ideology
 - b) A New Set of Pharisees — A New Set of Man Made Doctrines...
 - c) A New Set of Money Changers in the Temple...
3. **Don't Sell Your God Given Soul for Human Dogma!**

B. NOT ALL SHEPHERDS PROTECT THE FLOCK (John 10:11–12)

1. **Paul warned the Elders in Ephesus that Wolves Would Not Spare the Flock (Acts 20:28–30) Elders are Shepherds of the Flock— the Local Church**
 - a) **A Warning that Wolves Would Attack From the Outside...**
 - (1) False Teachers, False Prophets, False Doctrines, False Gospels
 - b) **A Warning that Wolves Would Also Arise from the Inside!**
 - (1) WHY? "to draw away the disciples after themselves" (v.30)
 - (2) STEALING by DECEIVING people into Leaving God to Follow Them!
2. **Jesus Warns us of: Wolves in Sheep's Clothing (Matt 7:15–20)**
 - a) **What is their Motivation? SELF!**
 - b) They Don't Want You to Follow GOD —> they Want You to Follow Them!
 - c) They Don't Care About Truth —> They Care About Power

C. NOT ALL SHEPHERDS CARE FOR THE FLOCK (John 10:13)

1. **WHY? Because They Really Only Care About Themselves...**
 - a) EXAMPLE: After a civil war split Israel into a Divided kingdom: Jeroboam became king of 10 tribes of Israel...
 - b) But as the People Went to Jerusalem to Worship the Lord—He Became Jealous Afraid He Would Loose Power (**1 Kings 12:26–29**)
 - c) WOW—Here are your gods who brought you out of Egypt!—Two Golden Calves
2. **There Are Leaders Today Who Want You to Worship Them Rather than God**

III. JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

A. JESUS PROVIDES FOR US (Isa. 40:11)

1. **Jesus takes personal responsibility to care for us!**
Even Carry Us if Necessary to Protect us from Spiritual harm
2. **But Sometimes we don't want to follow or we are afraid to...**
 - **EXAMPLE:** I heard of a shepherd leading his flock across a stream of flowing water
 - They refused to follow so he took a small lamb and carried the lamb over Himself
 - The mother refused to be separated from her baby so she crossed
and then the whole flock followed.
3. **Jesus knows what is best for us and He provides what we need.**

B. JESUS PROTECTS US (Jn 10:7-10)

1. **During the day the flock would be in the open fields.... but at night a shepherd brings them in close for safety...**
 - a) **Often there was a stone enclosure like a corral that the sheep would sleep in
It was made of stone walls—but It had no door...**
 - b) When someone asked the shepherd why: — he said, I am the door.
 - c) He laid down at the entrance at night so no one can enter and no sheep could wander out except through him
2. **To Be in Christ is the Safest most Secure Place to be!**

C. JESUS GUIDES US (Ps 23:1-4)

1. **To a Place of Rest and Peace... Away from Danger and Snares...**
2. **Even through the valley of the shadow of death—He will be with us!**
3. **He has promised 'I will never leave you nor forsake you' (Heb. 13:5)**
Jesus said, "I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age."

D. JESUS SEEKS AND SAVES THE LOST (Mt 18:11-13)

1. **Not only does He rejoice when one soul is saved...**
2. **He weeps over those who are lost (Matthew 9:36)**

E. JESUS KNOWS US (Jn 10:14)

1. **What a beautiful thought— The Lord Knows Who Are His**
 - a) Some say to Jesus: Lord, Lord did we not do all these great things in your name?
 - b) He said, depart from me I never knew you—They Never Knew Him
2. **(John 10:27) He Know His People and They Follow Him**

F. JESUS GIVES HIS LIFE SO WE CAN HAVE LIFE (Jn 10:10-11)

1. **Jesus Gave Up His Life so we can have an abundant & Eternal Life**
2. **(Matthew 26:31–33) God allowed the Shepherd to be struck down
Yet He Was Still Leading them to Eternal Life!**

CONCLUSION:

1. **To Be in Christ is the Safest most Secure Place to be (John 10:27–28)**