

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

I AM the Good Shepherd

Last time...Jesus had a message for the sheep and the shepherds of Israel:

I AM The Door of the sheepfold...the one and only Way into the safe refuge of God's redemption

This time...Jesus has a pointed message for the "shepherds" of Israel...the Pharisees

The account continues in John 10

v11-12 I am the good shepherd:

Back story – Judah's idolatrous rebellion against their God and His cleansing of His land of them using Neb and the Babylonians
(the start of the "times of the Gentiles" in the history of Israel)

Several years before the 1st wave of captivity,
which included Daniel (royal line)...[Jer 12:10](#)

Unfaithful, self-serving, others-destructive pastors
Followed by repeated calls to repentance

Several years before the 2nd wave of captivity,
which included Ezekiel (priest)...[Jer 23:1-6](#)

Woe-full pastors that destroy and scatter

vs

faithful pastors to feed the flock, according to the Lord's heart that
feed the people knowledge and understanding (Jer 3:15)

The Messiah, the Branch, the LORD

Followed by repeated calls to repentance

The year before the 3rd and final siege (total destruction) of
Jerusalem...[Ezk 34:1-16](#)

The unfaithful, self-serving pastors have not repented,
have continued to harm the flock (Israel/Judah)

- fleeced and fed on vs fed
- neglected, driven away vs tended, protected

The LORD God will shepherd His flock

Now, about 615 years later, Jesus makes another contrast between Himself and the Pharisees

Himself

I am the good shepherd

Yet another “I AM” statement by Jesus...
declaration of His Deity (Ex 3:14)

Ps 23:1 The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want

Ps 80:1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest
Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest *between* the
cherubims

Jer 23:5-6 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will
raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King
shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment
and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be
saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his
name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS

Who has come that they (His sheep) might have life and have it
more abundantly (His eternal life)...v10b

How can the sheep (followers) of The Good Shepherd have life
and that more abundantly?

the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep

Life and life more abundantly comes by The Good Shepherd
giving His life for...for the sake of...the (His) sheep

The Good Shepherd is willing to “pay the price” for the eternal
good/well-being of the sheep

- The Shepherd of Israel completely, Self-lessly devoted
to His sheep/flock/people
- The Giver of Life giving His life for the sheep...
because He loves them
- The Lamb of God (John 1:29) is the Substitute
sin sacrifice (Is 53) for the sheep
 - The fulfillment of Gen 22
 - Gen 22 in “reverse” – rather than a ram as a
substitute for the beloved son of the father,
the Son is the Father’s Substitute for the ram
(sheep)
- A “heads-up” that the Messiah is to be executed,
but not for Himself
(for the people/sheep, Dan 9:26a)

The Pharisees

he that is a hireling
whose services are for sale
a hired worker...therefore can be fired
who owns no sheep of his own

and not the shepherd
whose services are not for sale
who is not a hired worker but a willing and loving servant
who owns the sheep

sees the wolf coming
a hunter, a sheep-eating predator
a danger to the well-being of the sheep

leaves the sheep and flees
forsakes, abandons the helpless, defenseless sheep to fend for
themselves against the mortal danger
flees from that danger to save his own hide
sacrifices the sheep for his life (opposite of v11b by the shepherd)

the wolf catches and scatters the sheep
catches...seizes
scatters...lays waste to the ultra-vulnerable sheep
dividing to destroy the sheep...the devil's m.o.
Jer 23:1 Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the
sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD

v13-14 cares not...know...am know:

The bottom line difference between the hireling and the shepherd:

The hireling

- does not care for the sheep...not interested in them and their well-being
- cares only for himself...selfish, self-serving
- is a "hired professional" on a career path chosen by his flesh
- fleeces the flock for his gain

The Shepherd

- loves the sheep with His entire being and to the very end
- has a relationship with the sheep
 - knows them individually, personally (v3)
 - is known by them (v4)
- is a servant...serves the sheep vs the sheep serving Him
- feeds and tends the flock for their good, at his expense

The Pharisees are hirelings

Micah 3:9-11a

Jesus is The Good Shepherd

- The Son of David (a shepherd and King), the Branch
- The Messiah
- THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

v15 Father knows...I know:

In v14, Jesus knows My and is known of Mine – relationship

The Father knows Me and I know the Father – again, relationship

As is the Father, so is Jesus the Son (relational vs biological)

Love/*agape*...1 John 4:8

v11 is love...action

The Word was made flesh, God became a man (John 1:14)

- not so man would lay his life down for God
(religion, a blemished sacrifice)
- but so God would lay down His Life for man
(relationship, a holy sacrifice)

Once reconciled by the sacrifice of the Good Shepherd, the sheep (John 1:12)

lay down their lives (Rom 12:1) for Him and for each other...

thereby fulfilling the Law (Matt 22:36-40, Rom 13:10)

v16 other sheep...not of this fold...one fold...one shepherd:

Who is who?

this fold: the Jews

Matt 15:21-28...v24 with Ezk 34:11-16

other sheep: not the Jews, therefore the Gentiles

the “puppies” of Matt 15:25

Luke 2:10-11, 14, 30-32

John 3:16, Acts 1:8

one fold: Church, Jew and Gentile

Rom 1:16, Rom 11:11-13, Eph 2:11-17

who have ears to hear His voice (John 8:47a)...by faith

one Shepherd: The Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ

Eph 1:22-23, Col 1:15-19

v17-18 Father love Me...lay down...take it again:

Because the nature of God the Father is Self-less, sacrificial love...
and God the Son has the same nature as God the Father
(revealed in foretold actions of v11-16)...

The Father is well-pleased with The Son

- The Good Shepherd
- His Sin sacrifice
- His Messiah

for laying down and then taking up again His life for the sheep

And no man has the power to do either:

- take Jesus' life
- restore Jesus' life, raise Him back to life

No creature...not even all creatures...can take the life of the Creator!

No creature has power over death

Only the Lord God, the Creator, has the power to lay down His life and the power
to take it up again

Ps 22:28-29 after ministry of the Suffering Servant

A prophesy of both the death and resurrection of the Messiah,
spoken by the Messiah

The prophesy to be fulfilled in about a year

John 19:30

An empty tomb

Acts 2:22-24

On Calvary, the OTL God was in complete control of the goings-on...
neither man...the Jews or the Roman
nor devil
was in control

Jesus' death on the Cross was

- His submission and obedience to the will of His Father
- His act
- His offering...Himself for the sheep
- our example to "do" John 13:34-35

v19-21 a division...many...others:

And as was always the case, there was a division among the people because of what Jesus said

Luke 12:51 **Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division**

Many, the hirelings/"not shepherds" and those of their ilk:

He has a devil! He is insane! Why is anybody listening to Him?!

Others, seeking knowledge and understanding:

These are not things the devil would say...and these (Ch 9) are not things the devil can do

Matt 7:13-15

Now ends this visit of Jesus to Jerusalem (John 7:10 – 10:21),
the Feast of Tabernacles in Sept/Oct)

He will now minister in the country around Jerusalem, Judea, before returning to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Dedication in Dec (John 10:22 *ff*)

Application

As we follow Jesus our Good Shepherd in these deceptive and perilous times, we, the one fold of the One Shepherd, must take heed

The Church must beware of false teachers/prophets...wolves in sheep's clothing

Num 27:15-17

Moses handing off to Joshua/Jesus

All men are sheep

2 kinds of sheep:

1. have a shepherd, following The Good Shepherd
2. have no shepherd, following a hireling (who is not the Shepherd)

hireling

- "hired hand"
- wage earner
- someone not called by Jesus into the ministry but one looking for a safe, cushy job (Reality: is none of those things!)
- no "ownership"/commitment unto the end, no personal interest in the sheep
- just a job...and will abandon the sheep and flee to another job when
 - it gets dangerous (to Self)
 - a better offer comes along...career advancement

When the hireling abandons the sheep, for whatever selfish reason,

- sacrifices the lives of the sheep for his own vs
Shepherd sacrificing His life for the sheep
- the sheep are vulnerable to a wolf attack

Wolf

- false teacher...in sheep's clothing
- catches..."seize"/harpazo...to scatter vs
catches...seizure/harpazo...to gather unto Himself as does the
Good Shepherd (Ezk 34:11-16 and 1 Thes 4:17)

There is a division among men these days because of Jesus' sayings...

we live in days when The Lord is separating His sheep from those who have
no shepherd.

2 Tim 4:3-4

want a hireling vs a shepherd who will feed them
Jer 23:4

2 Peter 2:1-3, 9-10

accountable: the self-willed...
false teachers/hirelings and those who
follow them

Acts 20:26-31