

The Great I Am

I Am The Good Shepherd

(Jn 10:11-18)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of Lessons on "The Great I Am."
 - a. We have thus far looked at how Jesus is...
 - i. The great I Am
 1. **Jn 8:58**
 - ii. The bread of life.
 1. **Jn 6:35**
 - iii. The light of the world.
 1. **Jn 8:12**
 - iv. The door
 1. **Jn 10:9**
 - b. This week we are going to examine probably the most popular of the "Seven I Am's" of Jesus which is...
 - i. I Am The Good Shepherd
 1. **Jn 10:11** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."¹
3. Two things to keep in mind before we go on.
 - a. First, understanding sheep.
 - i. Last week many of us after services were sitting back in the back area of the auditorium and there was an interesting conversation going on concerning sheep.
 1. It centered around the lack of intelligence sheep show.
 - a. If new born sheep are not quickly taken to their mother to suck they simply give up and die.
 - b. They next to impossible to push forward.
 - c. They reflect instead of reacting.
 - i. Example of long trips and needing water...
 - b. Second, understanding shepherds.
 - i. Last week each one was talking not about shepherding hundreds of sheep but in many cases just one, and the difficulties it presented.
 1. Thus one sees the dedication it takes to be a shepherd of many, it takes...
 - a. Love, patience, endurance, leadership...
 4. Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
 - a. As Jesus was giving the illustration of the "sheepfold" showing Himself to be "the Door" He also explains something else which is He is the Good Shepherd.
 5. Let us look at why Jesus says He is the Good Shepherd.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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I. The Good Shepherd Laid Down His Life For His Sheep

A. A hired hand verse an owner

1. Being a shepherd is not a danger free occupation.
 - i. Sheep, due to their unintelligence, are easy pickings without protection.
 - ii. David tells of some of the dangers.
 - a. **I Sa 17:34-35** "But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him."
2. A hired hand is not going to "pull the beard" of the bear or lion to get his sheep back.
 - i. This is due to the fact that the sheep are "not his sheep."
 - a. He is simply the babysitter not the parent.
 1. Parent more likely to go into the burning house to their kids than babysitter is.
 - ii. Remember the "Parable of the Lost Son."
 - a. **Lk 15:18-24** "I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." ' 20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate."
 1. The son could not be the hired servant because the father "knew" he was his son.
 - iii. Consider preachers and elders.
 - a. If a preacher or elder is "hired" he will fail at his ministry.
 1. For far too long preacher, in particular, have considered themselves as hirelings of a congregation instead of being servants of God supported by congregations.
 2. When preachers/elders think they are hired they will think/do what the congregation wants quicker than doing what God wants.

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3. An owner is going to "pull the beard" of the bear or lion to get his sheep back.
 - i. Why, because he loves them and cannot bear the thought of losing one.
 - ii. The thought of losing a sheep to a predator is "unthinkable."
 - a. **Lk 15:4** "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?"
- B. Jesus is the owner not a hired hand
 1. He died for each one of us.
 - i. **He 12:2** "looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."
 2. Therefore Jesus is our Good He gave His life for all of us.
- C. Thus...
 1. We/sheep can follow Jesus/Good Shepherd because we know He was not hired; He died for each of us.

II. The Good Shepherd Knows His Own & They Know Him

- A. Sheep once again are not the most intelligent but they do know their shepherd
 1. Sheep will not follow just anyone.
 2. They only follow the one whom they trust.
 - i. **Jn 10:5** "A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."
 3. Thus to be a sheep owner ie shepherd one must know his sheep and his sheep must know him.
 - B. Jesus the Good Shepherd knows us better than we know ourselves
 1. He is our creator.
 - i. **Jn 1:3** "All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."
 2. We were created for Him.
 - i. **Co 1:16** "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him."
 3. Jesus knows us.
 - C. We the sheep can trust Jesus the Good Shepherd
 1. Trusting in Jesus means following our leader's voice.
 - i. **Jn 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
 2. His voice is the narrow path.
 - i. **Jn 12:48** "The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day."
 3. His voice lights the narrow path.
 - i. **Ps 119:105** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
- Thus...
1. We must know our Shepherd because He knows us.

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III. How Great It Is To Have Such A Shepherd

- A. How easy it is to follow such a great leader
 - 1. **I Jn 5:3** "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome."
- B. How comforting it is to follow such a leader
 - 1. **Mt 11:28-30** "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
- C. How secure it is to follow such a great leader
 - 1. **Ro 8:38-39** "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

CONCLUSION

- 1. There have been many a person that has led many of mankind but none of them have led as Jesus the Chief Shepherd.
 - a. **I Pt 5:4** "And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."
- 2. Question: Is Jesus "your" shepherd?
 - a. The Scriptures are clear we can only follow one shepherd/master (**Mt 6:24**).
- 3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**