

JOHN 10:11-21 – Discussion Guide

Jesus: The Good Shepherd

A common “picture” of Almighty God that we find throughout the Jewish sacred books (which we call the “Old Testament”) is that of God as “Shepherd”. Consider just some places where we see this:

- **Psalm 23:1-6 --**
- **Isaiah 40:10-11 –**
- **Ezekiel 34:31 –**

How do you think the fact that YHWH presented Himself as the shepherd of His people would have affected what the Jews of Jesus’ day thought when Jesus declared that He is “the Good Shepherd”?

Read **John 10:11-21**.

What did Jesus say in **John 10:12 & 13** and to whom was He referring? Compare what Jesus says in these verses with what God said about the spiritual leaders of ancient Israel in **Ezekiel 34:1-11**.

According to **Matthew 9:35-36**, why did Jesus have compassion on the people?

So great was the compassion of Christ that he, as the Good Shepherd, laid down His life for the sheep. Notice the emphasis on this in **John 10:11, 15, 17-18**.

There are three truths about the death of Jesus that are mentioned in these verses upon which we can focus:

- 1) The death of Jesus was VOLUNTARY:
 - This contradicts those who view the death of Jesus as a tragic accident or cruel twist of fate.
 - In addition to the verses in our main text today, notice how the following Bible verses emphasize this truth:
 - **1 John 3:16 –**
 - **Philippians 2:8 --**
- 2) The death of Jesus was VICARIOUS (or “substitutionary”):
 - How do the following Bible verses support this truth?
 - **Matthew 20:28 –**
 - **Romans 5:6-8 –**
 - **Galatians 1:3-4 –**
 - **Galatians 3:13 --**
- 3) The death of Jesus was VICTORIOUS:
 - What did the death of Jesus accomplish in fulfillment of **Isaiah 53:4-6**?
 - What did Jesus say in **John 10:16** regarding for whom He laid down His life?
 - What did Jesus say in **John 10:18** that points to His victory over death?

According to **John 10:19-21**, how did the people respond to the claims Jesus had just made?

How have you responded to Jesus?

- Can you say that you are among those who believe what we read in 1 Peter 2:24-25?
- If our faith is in Jesus, may we continually thank God for Him & His willingness to lay down His life for us.
- If your faith is not in Jesus, what is holding you back? Ask yourself the question that we find in John 10:21!