

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 10:11-21**.
- B. This is the fourth of our Lord's "I AM" statements in John's gospel (Jo. 6:35; 8:12; 10:9).
- C. In speaking of Jesus being the *Good* Shepherd; the word translated *good* means "intrinsically good, beautiful, fair." It describes that which is;
  - 1. The ideal, or the model, that others may safely imitate.
  - 2. Our Lord's goodness was inherent in His nature.
  - 3. To call Him "good" is the same as calling Him "God" (Mk. 10:17-18).
- D. Some of the greatest people named in the Bible were shepherds by occupation: Abel, some of the patriarchs, Moses, and David, to name a few.
- E. And the Jewish shepherds did not tend the sheep in order to slaughter them, unless they were used for sacrifice. Shepherds tended them that the sheep might give wool, milk, and lambs.

## I. THE GOOD SHEPHERD... **LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.**

- A. See **Jn. 10:11-13**.  
"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He who is a hireling, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, beholds the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep, and flees, and the wolf snatches them, and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling, and is not concerned about the sheep."
- B. Five times in this sermon, Jesus clearly affirmed the sacrificial nature of His death (Jn. 10:11, 15, 17, 18). He did not die as a martyr, killed by men; He died as a substitute, willingly laying down His life for us.
- C. Jesus contrasted Himself to the hireling who watches over the sheep only because he is paid to do so.
- D. Throughout the Bible, God's people are compared to sheep; and the comparison is a good one. Sheep are:
  - 1. Clean animals (unlike pigs and dogs), see 2Pet. 2:22.  
It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."
  - 2. Defenseless and need protection and care (Psa. 23).
  - 3. Prone to wander and must be searched for and brought back to the flock.
  - 4. Peaceful animals, useful to the shepherd.
- E. Our good Shepherd is one we can trust. He cares for us deeply. So much so that He is willing to lay down His life for our sakes.

## II. THE GOOD SHEPHERD... **KNOWS HIS SHEEP.**

- A. See **Jn. 10:14,15**.  
"I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep."
- B. In the gospel of John, the word *know* means much more than an intellectual awareness. It speaks of an intimate relationship between God and His people. This meaning is brought out in Mt. 7:23. Those who have an intimate and strong relationship with God are those who do His will.  
"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"
- C. John 17:3 also brings out this quality. We are able to say "Abba Father" (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6) because of what we have in X.  
(**Jn. 17:3**) "And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent."  
(**Rom 8:15**) For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

(Gal 4:6) And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

- D. Jesus, the Good Shepherd knows three things about us:
1. Our names. In a world of numbers, computers, and “red tape” it is so refreshing when someone calls you, and knows you by name. God knows each family by name (Eph. 3:15). Notice the personal side of our salvation in that our *names* are recorded in heaven (Lk. 10:20; Phil. 4:3).  
(Eph 3:15) from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,  
(Lk 10:20) “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”  
(Phil 4:3) Indeed, true comrade, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.
  2. Our natures. Sheep and people are much alike in that they all have their particular natures. Each has its own distinctive characteristics. But the good news is that the Good Shepherd recognizes these traits. Jesus dealt with each of the apostles as needed, respecting their individual differences.
  3. Our needs. Often, more so than we care to admit, we do not know our own needs. Psalm 23 says that even though we shall have trial and trouble, and not know what to do in life, He is there to take care of our every need. Using Psa. 23:1 and 23:6 together you get the main theme of the psalm, “I shall not want... all the days of my life.”

### III. THE GOOD SHEPHERD... **BRINGS OTHER SHEEP INTO THE FLOCK.**

- A. See Jn. 10:16.  
“And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd.”
- B. The “fold” is Judaism (Jo. 10:1), but there is another fold--the Gentiles who are outside the covenants of Israel (Eph. 2:11ff).
- C. The people converted at Pentecost were Jews and Jewish proselytes (Ac. 2:5, 14), but the church was not to remain a “Jewish flock.”
- D. The Good Shepherd is evangelistic (Lk. 19:10; Mt. 28:19-20; 22:9-10; 1Tim. 1:15).  
(Lk 19:10) “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”  
(Mt 28:19-20) “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”  
(Mt 22:9-10) ‘Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.’ “And those slaves went out into the streets, and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests.”  
(1Tim 1:15) It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

### IV. THE GOOD SHEPHERD... **TAKES UP HIS LIFE AGAIN.**

- A. See Jn. 10:17-21.  
“For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father. There arose a division again among the Jews because of these words. And many of them were saying, “He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him? Others were saying, “These are not the sayings of one demon-possessed. A demon cannot open the eyes of the blind, can he?”
- B. X’s voluntary death was followed by His victorious resurrection. From the human point of view, it appeared that Jesus was executed; but from the divine point of view, He laid down His life willingly.
- C. Three days later, He voluntarily took up His life again and arose from the dead.
- D. We, as sheep of His pasture, can rejoice and celebrate in a resurrected Shepherd!
1. Peter preached a resurrected X (Ac. 2:31-32).  
he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO

HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. “This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

2. The apostles preached a resurrected X (Ac. 4:33).  
And with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.
3. Paul preached a resurrected X (Ac. 17:30-31).  
“Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

#### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. How did the listeners respond to this message? “There was division therefore again among the Jews” (Jn. 10:19).
- B. Just as Jesus said He was “the Door: some will walk through and some will not. Jesus as “the Good Shepherd” means some will become sheep and others will be goats.
- C. Jesus wants to be your Good Shepherd:
  1. He has laid down His life for you.
  2. He knows your every need.
  3. He desires to bring everyone into the flock.
  4. He has taken up His life again to live forevermore.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.