

Subject: *Christ is the Good Shepherd – Part 1*

Scripture: *John 10:1-15*

In the Gospel of John we find seven “I am” statements of Jesus. In these statements Jesus reveals important truths about Himself and His ministry.

John 6:35 *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

John 8:12 *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

John 10:7 *Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.*

John 10:11 *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

John 11:25 *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.*

John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

John 15:1 *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

Two of these seven statements are found in John 10, where we read that Jesus is the door the good Shepherd. The picture of the shepherd and his sheep is a familiar to us. It is found in the OT and NT to reveal God’s love, care, and protection for His people.

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

Psalms 100:3 *Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

Isaiah 53:6 *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

John 21:15 *So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.*

In John 10 we have an extended passage on this special relationship between the good Shepherd and His sheep. This sermon came out of the confrontation Jesus had with the Jewish leaders in John 9. After Christ healed a blind man on the Sabbath day, there was a big controversy and the religious leaders questioned the man who was healed and they tried to intimidate him and discredit Jesus, but he wouldn’t go along with them. He said,

“One thing I know—once I was blind, but now I can see.” The leaders were so frustrated they excommunicated him from the synagogue. But when they kicked him out, Jesus found him out and ministered to him. This sermon was a perfect time to show that the religious leaders had failed in their responsibility as spiritual shepherds of the people, but He is the good Shepherd who loves and cares for His sheep.

1. The Good Shepherd cautions His sheep

Jesus warned them about thieves and robbers (vs. 1, 8, 10), strangers (vs. 5), and hirelings (vs. 12-13). He described the religious leaders as thieves and robbers because they were mean and took advantage of the people for their own benefit. He said they were strangers because they had no real love or spiritual concern for the people. He called them hirelings because they didn't care about the welfare of the people.

2. The Good Shepherd cares for His sheep

In contrast to the dangerous and evil religious leaders who were like thieves and robbers and strangers and hirelings, Jesus is the good shepherd who loves and cares for the sheep.

- A. He provides salvation – He is one and only door into the sheepfold. A person must enter through Him to be saved. There is no other way.

John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Acts 4:12 *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

1 Timothy 2:5 *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

There was only one door into Noah's ark. There is only one door into the sheepfold. There is only one door into heaven.

- B. He provides satisfaction – The sheep go in and out of the sheepfold. They go out to graze and they come in to rest. Christ takes care of every need.

Psalms 23:2 *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

- C. He provides security – The sheepfold is the place of security. The shepherd would lay across the opening into the sheepfold to protect the sheep from thieves and predators. Christ came to provide life and protect life.

- D. He gives His life for the sheep – Jesus laid down His life so that His sheep might have life. No one took it from Him; He laid it down voluntarily and as a substitute.

- E. He knows His sheep – See verses 14-15 and 3-4. Christ knows His sheep and they know Him and hear His voice. In ancient Israel many shepherds kept their sheep in a common sheepfold, and when it came time for the sheep to leave the fold and graze in the field, each shepherd called for his sheep. Each shepherd knew his own sheep and the sheep knew their own shepherd.

All of this is a very beautiful and rich picture of Christ and His people. He calls them and they hear Him. They enter the fold through Him. They go in and out and follow Him into green pastures. They are saved, satisfied, and secure. They know the good shepherd and He knows them.