



THE GOOD SHEPHERD | FULL | JULY 22, 2018

Jesus is the GOOD shepherd. What makes Him the good shepherd and how does that impact our lives?

John 10:11-16

“11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. 12 A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. 13 The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep.

14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, 15 just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

The Good Shepherd’s Characteristics

- **Protective**
 - Psalm 23 - “Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.”
 - **Inclusive** (vs.16)
 - “I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also.”
 - **Unifying** (vs.16)
 - “They will listen to my voice, and there will be *one* flock with *one* shepherd.”
 - **Pursuing**
 - Matthew 18:12-14 (Parable of the Lost Sheep)
 - The Good Shepherd leaves the 99 to find the one that has wandered away.
 - **Knows Us Deeply** (vs.14)
 - Unconditional
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- Committed
- Caring
 - Isaiah 40
 - “He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.”
- **Unselfish** (vs.11, 15)
 - Self-sacrificial - “Lays down his life.”
 - This is what the gospel is all about!
 - There is no greater love than to lay your own life down for another.
- **Guides**
 - Sheep get lost easily.
 - We like sheep have gone astray (Isaiah 53:6).
 - Sheep are defenceless.
 - “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)
 - We need the guidance of the shepherd to protect us from the thief and robber.
 - Sheep know their shepherd's voice (John 10:3-5, 16)
 - He guides us and we follow him because we know his voice.

The Opposite of the Good Shepherd

- As Jesus describes himself as a good shepherd, he also makes sure to describe what the other option looks like.
- Hired hand (vs.12-13)
 - Not committed.
 - In it for selfish gain.
 - Scatters and doesn't unite.

Love In Action

- We have been given this love and our response is to share that same love with others.
 - The love of the Good Shepherd is genuine, deep and compassionate and is for all people.

- This love is willing to sacrifice and risk in order to love others.
 - We are called to love even the hardest people to love in our lives.
 - This may take us out of our comfort zone, but it's what we're called to do.
- We need to love like this!
 - This brings glory to God!
 - We get to offer others a full life!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which characteristic of the Good Shepherd has caught your attention the most?
2. How does love of the Good Shepherd impact your every day life?
3. What can you do in your life to improve how well you hear the shepherd's voice?
4. What does it look like for you to share the Good Shepherd's love with others who have not experienced it?