

Jesus – Good Shepherd - John 10 – March 22, 2023

God as Shepherd – O.T. Relationship (shepherd/sheep) given to us by God himself. First conceived in God’s mind.

- **Psalm 23** – The Lord is my Shepherd....
- **Isaiah 40:11** – “Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.”
- **Jeremiah 31:10** – “He who scattered Israel will gather him & keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.”
- **Ezekiel 34:11-16** - “For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search and find my sheep. I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day. 13 I will bring them back home to their own land of Israel from among the peoples and nations. I will feed them on the mountains of Israel and by the rivers and in all the places where people live. 14 Yes, I will give them good pastureland on the high hills of Israel. There they will lie down in pleasant places and feed in the lush pastures of the hills. 15 I myself will tend my sheep and give them a place to lie down in peace, says the Sovereign Lord. 16 I will search for my lost ones who strayed away, and I will bring them safely home again. I will bandage the injured and strengthen the weak...”
 - This relationship - Creator & people – should give us **comfort**:
- **Gen. 48:15** – Jacob described it as: “The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day” . . . Shep: *someone to care for us*.

N.T., John 10 – Jesus now speaks of Himself as Good Shepherd. Messiah.

- **v.11 - I am the good shepherd. The G.S. lays down his life for the sheep.**
 - The Shepherd loves the sheep; will give His life to protect them.
 - Hired hands care more for themselves. Will abandon the sheep.
 - Shepherd loves the sheep more than His own life.
 - Sheep thrive when their Shepherd is kind, gentle, selfless love.
 - We can thrive... life more abundantly w/ Jesus, Shepherd. **10:10**
- **v.14 - I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep & my sheep know me.**
 - Know Jesus? Before his death, He prayed for you in Gethsemane.
 - On the cross, He forgave. He changed lives for the better.
 - Stopped for lepers. Elevated women. Important.
 - He came to show us Love. True Love. God’s love.

- If you know Jesus, you also know God & His character... they're One.
 - God carries the sheep when they are weak, wounded. Strength.
 - God protects ... rescues... keeps you safe... preserves your life...
 - God leads to better pasture... closes gates & opens better ones
 - God searches for you... leaves 99 sheep . . . never left behind, never abandoned, never forgotten... never “a stray” - Belong!
- **Does Jesus know you?**
 - Sometimes we're fans of Jesus, not followers.
 - He's only your Shepherd if you allow Him to lead... & follow.
 - We can even serve Him, but not be His sheep.
 - **Matt. 7:22-23** – “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ 23 Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you.’”
 - Willing to have a master, servant? Obedient? Or do own way?
 - 3-part process: believe, repent/confess, follow.
 - demons believe. **James 2:19** – “You believe that God is one. Good for you! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.”
 - **John 15:14** – “You are My friends if you do what I command you”
 - **Matt. 12:50** – “For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”
 - Some refuse this relationship. Some refuse to follow.
 - If you know the Shepherd, it's easy to say Yes. He your Shepherd?
- **V.16** – “I have **other sheep that are not of this sheep pen**. I must bring them also . . . there shall be **one flock** and one shepherd.”
 - Jewish, Gentile. Greek, Irish, Asian, Canadian, Indian, American . . .
 - All tribes, races ... all faiths. All lives matter. Together. Get along.
- **V.17-18** – “The reason my Father loves me is that **I lay down my life—only to take it up again**. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”
 - Jesus willingly gave His life for us. Voluntary. No one took his life.
 - He laid it down, & took it up. He died, but He rose!

- **V.26-30** – Later... asked if He was the Messiah. Answer: “you do not believe because you are not my sheep. 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I **give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.** 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. 30 **I and the Father are one.**”
 - 3 truths for believers: eternal life, never perish, none lost. Once saved.
 - Jesus & God are one. Know Jesus... know God.
 - God’s love flowed thru Jesus . . . flowed thru His blood.

Closing:

Easter. Jesus is both Shepherd & Sheep. He was divine & human.

- **Is. 53:6-7** – “All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s path to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.

The Shepherd loved us more than anything. Let Him be your Shepherd.

Song of the week – “The Good Shepherd" [Live] (feat. Eileen Walker)

3 weeks to Easter. 11 a.m. Bring a dish/brunch

5-3-23- “Restoration Reunion” – 42 days