

“Our Good Shepherd”
John 10:11–21 (NKJV)

In the original Greek, the word for “the” (ὁ, ho) is repeated twice in this verse –
¹¹ “I am the the good shepherd. The The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. John 10:11 (NKJV)

Ego eimi ho ho kalos poimain

He is not “a” good shepherd, one of many ... But the Good Shepherd (unique)

*But actually, THE THE Good Shepherd, you might say means extremely unique in all His
Shepherding Qualities!*

A Super Shepherd, with super-shepherding powers -

I. Jesus’ first Good Shepherd power is unselfish self-sacrifice -

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ¹² But a hireling, *he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.* ¹³ The hireling flees because *he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.* John 10:11–13 (NKJV)

1. Looking in Scripture David is portrayed as “a good shepherd”
 - A. He fought for literal sheep, against a lion and a bear.
 - B. He fought Goliath.
 - C. He risked his life, but did not die in the fight.
2. Yet, Jesus not only fights but He willingly dies to save us from sin, from Hell, from destruction! David you might say was “good” but Jesus was better!

Jesus’ first superpower is self-sacrifice!

The ho ho “the” “the” in these verse separate Jesus even from David.

3. Verses :12-13 Separates and contrasts Jesus with the hirelings:
 - A. By definition those who watch the sheep only for PAY / MONEY
 - B. They don’t own or care for the sheep
 - C. They run when the going gets tough
4. All of us are called to be unselfish as Christians / to have the mind of Christ –
⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.
Philippians 2:5–8 (NKJV)

Paul gave the Philippians examples of unselfish under-shepherds:

A. Timothy –

¹⁹ But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. ²⁰ For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. ²¹ For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. ²² But you know his proven character, that as a son with *his* father he served with me in the gospel. Philippians 2:19–22 (NKJV)

B. Epaphroditus -

²⁵ Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; ²⁶ since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷ For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. ²⁹ Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; ³⁰ because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me. Philippians 2:25–30 (NKJV)

II. *Jesus' second Good Shepherd power is knowledge –*

¹⁴ **I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.** ¹⁵ **As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.** ¹⁶ **And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd.** John 10:14–16 (NKJV)

1. *Jesus knows His sheep –*

A. *As God's Son, the Second Person of the Godhead, Jesus knew all men, even their hearts –*

⁹ “The heart is deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? ¹⁰ I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings. Jeremiah 17:9–10 (NKJV)

²³ Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. ²⁴ But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all *men*, ²⁵ and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man. John 2:23–25 (NKJV)

B. *We can know some of these things, as we have been taught them in God's Word and by Jesus and being taught, in observation.*

C. *Yet, Jesus knows His sheep in a special, loving, saving, distinguishing way –*

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.** Psalm 1:6 (NKJV)

D. *Consider what Jesus says to false professors of His Name –*

²¹ **“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.** ²² **Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’** ²³ **And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’** Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)

2. *Jesus sheep KNOW Him - and am known by My own.* John 10:14 B (NKJV)
 - A. *Jesus' sheep love Him –* ¹⁵ **“If you love Me, keep My commandments.** John 14:15 (NKJV)
 - B. *Jesus' sheep hear His Voice – and they will hear My voice ...* John 10:16 (NKJV)
 - C. *Jesus' sheep follow Him –* ²⁷ **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.** John 10:27 (NKJV)

All our knowing of Christ is relational and is because of His first knowing, choosing, and loving us – ¹⁶ **You did not choose Me, but I chose you...** John 15:16 (NKJV)

¹⁹ **We love Him because He first loved us.** 1 John 4:19 (NKJV)

3. *Jesus, known by God the Father, and Jesus' knowledge of God the Father –*
¹⁵ **As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.** John 10:15 (NKJV)

I am not going to fully expound on this verse today! Fully, maybe never! But what I will say today is communicated in this knowledge, meaning SON-FATHER knowledge and Christ's laying His life is this:

A. *Agreement – God knew and even planned on His Son dying for a sin sick world –*
¹⁶ **For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.** John 3:16 (NKJV)

B. *Approval –*

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ And John *tried* to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, **“Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”** Then he allowed Him.

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:13–17 (NKJV)

Note, John the Baptist at first did not want to baptize Jesus. Why? Baptism was for SINNERS and John knew Jesus was not one! Yet God the Father sure APPROVED! Why? Because this humiliation was a first step to the cross...

4. *Jesus knew and knows us today -*

¹⁶ **And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.** John 10:16 (NKJV)

A. *This verse is about US! Word of Life Church in North Port FL It is meant for US!*

B. *Beware of a bad hermeneutic, hermeneutics is the science of interpretation, how do we interpret Scripture ... The Bad hermeneutic limits intention to the first readers / not us. What we need to remember is God, not only John, is the ultimate Author of the Bible*

C. *Jesus knew Gentiles / we, even in 2023 USA would be His sheep! We hear His Voice!*

III. *Jesus's third Good Shepherd power is the resurrection power of perfect Divine Love –*

¹⁷ “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.” John 10:17–18 (NKJV)

1. *Something only Jesus could do –*

... I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. John 10:18 (NKJV)

2. *Resurrection power –*

But something that benefits us ...

⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵ “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:54–58 (NKJV)

A. *Now this is our spiritual power to fight SIN!*

B. *One day it is victory over death, decay and destruction ...*

IV. *Jesus' sheep see these things and they will follow –*

¹⁹ Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. ²⁰ And many of them said, “He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?” ²¹ Others said, “These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?” John 10:19–21 (NKJV)

1. *Some think Jesus has a demon ... like those who think the apostles are drunk –*

¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?”

¹³ Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.” Acts 2:12–14 (NKJV)

2. *Yet, Jesus “words” and His miraculous deeds are to be believed –*

²¹ Others said, “These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?” John 10:21 (NKJV)

*I just want to be a sheep, sheep; I just want to be a sheep, sheep
Pray the Shepherd my soul to keep, I just want to be a sheep!
I don't want to be a Pharisee, I don't want to be a Pharisee
Cause the Pharisees ain't fair you SEE, I just want to be a sheep!
I don't want to be a Sadducee, I don't want to be a Sadducee
Cause the Sadducees are SAD you see; I just want to be a sheep!*

If you are not a sheep, if you are a goat, you are LOST –

⁴¹ “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: Matthew 25:41 (NKJV)