

John 10:11–18

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.”

## ***I am the Good Shepherd*** **John 10:11-18**

INTRO:

The last time we were here, we listened as our Lord drew the first lessons from His word painting that opens this chapter. Remember in **verses 1-5**, there were five elements in the picture: the sheepfold, the door, the people entering the wrong way, the shepherd of the sheep, and the sheep themselves. In **verses 6-10**, the Lord Jesus highlights the door of the sheep. The sum of the teaching is that He is the door, if we enter by Him we will be saved and we will find continual access to God the Father and His provision for His sheep.

The focus changes at **verse 11**. ***“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”***

***I. The Good Shepherd Cares For His Sheep (v. 11-16)***

***II. The Good Shepherd Lays down His life for His Sheep (v. 17-18)***

## ***I. The Good Shepherd Cares For His Sheep (v. 11-16)***

A. In our study we have read sobering words our LORD spoke to the shepherds (the spiritual leaders of His flock in the Old Testament). After a scathing rebuke, Our LORD made an amazing promise. In **Ezekiel 34:14–16** we read, ***“I [Yahweh] will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I will shepherd My flock, and I will make them lie down,’ says the Lord GOD.”***

This text represents many texts in the Old Testament in which God states He will judge the shepherds who are only in it for themselves and He Himself will shepherd His flock.

B. Our Lord claimed to be the door of the sheep twice in **verses 7-10**. In a similar way, our Lord claimed to be the good shepherd twice. The first time was in **verse 11** ***“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”***

This claim lays bare the ultimate evidence that as Yahweh saves, He is the fulfillment of the promises of the Old Testament which promised God Himself would pasture His sheep.

1. Within the word picture we see our Good Shepherd, like David, willing to face peril in order to protect His sheep. Can we ever forget the speech David gave to Saul as he prepared to meet Goliath?

**1 Samuel 17:34–36** ***“But David said to Saul, ‘Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.’”***

2. However, we discover this word picture means far more than this as we translate it into the world in which we live.

C. To understand the blessing of having the Son of God Himself be our shepherd, the Lord Jesus drew a contrast between Himself and the hireling.

**John 10:12-13** ***“He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.”***

1. The first significant difference between the hired hand and our Good Shepherd is that a hired hand is NOT a shepherd. A shepherd is someone who has been put in the position of a shepherd.

**Ephesians 4:11** ***“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.”***

Being a shepherd was not just a job, it was a calling. Every shepherd called by the Lord of glory must try to look like and act like the Great Shepherd of the Sheep.

2. The hired hand also has no sense of ownership of the sheep. They are not his own. He just does his work for the money. He cannot say what Jesus Himself says about the sheep.

***“I am The Good Shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me.” (v. 14)***

We who are sheep belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. The hired hand will not sacrifice for the sheep. He runs at the first sight of danger. Our Lord on the other hand, is with us through the danger.

**Psalm 23:4** ***“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me”***

4. The hired hand does not care about the sheep. He has no emotional investment in the welfare of the sheep. In contrast, our Lord really cares about us.

**1 Peter 5:6-7** ***“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you”***

D. The Lord Jesus is the Good Shepherd also because He has a relationship with His sheep.

**vs.14-16** ***“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”***

1. Our Lord Jesus is the Good Shepherd because He not only cares for the sheep, He has a relationship with us. He knows us. In **verse 3** He said He knows us by name. He knows us intimately and we know Him experientially. John used the **“know”** in the sense of knowing someone as a person, entering into an ongoing relationship with someone. The picture breaks down here in that this goes well beyond a person’s relationship with an animal. The Lord Jesus Christ has a relationship with us personally!

2. To show us how real and intimate this relationship can be, He draws an amazing parallel, ***“just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.”*** Our relationship with the Lord Jesus can be similar to the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. Let me quote A. T. Robertson here, ***“The comparison of the mutually reciprocal knowledge between the Father and the Son illustrates what He has just said, though it stands above all else. We cannot claim such perfect knowledge of the Good Shepherd as exists between the Father and Son and yet the real sheep do know the Shepherd’s voice and do love to follow His leadership here and now.”***

E. So **(1)** He is the Good Shepherd because He knows the sheep and **(2)** He is the Good Shepherd because He loves the Sheep. **(3)** He is also the Good Shepherd because He will bring all the sheep into one flock.

***“And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.” (v. 16)***

He is not just the Good Shepherd to the covenant people of God under the old covenant. He is also the Good Shepherd to those who will come into relationship with Him through the New Covenant in His blood. This flock, in another fold is the Gentiles who will come to know Him as Savior and Lord.

## ***II. The Good Shepherd Lays down His life for His Sheep (v. 17-18)***

A. Our Lord Jesus is not only the Good Shepherd because He cares for the sheep. Most of all, He is the Good Shepherd because He lays down His life for the sheep.

***vs.17-18 “For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”***

B. There are two important statements here. First, the Father loves the Son because He lays down His life for the sheep. What He is saying is that while the Father loves His Son, unconditionally, He also loves His obedience.

C. The second statement here has tremendous theological import. No one takes the Son's life from Him. He lays it down and He can take it back up. Jesus Who died on our behalf was none other than God the Son Himself. When we read of the betrayal, the arrest, the trial, the shame and abuse that He bore, and ultimately the crucifixion He endured for us, we must never see Him as the victim, only as the victor! The Jews and the Romans did not crucify the Lord Jesus Christ. He laid down His life for us!

How are we doing in these areas? Are we His sheep? Have we come by faith to Him to have our sins forgiven and an open door to an ongoing relationship with the Lord Jesus Himself?

How is your relationship with the Lord Jesus? Do you really know Him? Is He an acquaintance? Is He a close friend? Is He the friend who sticks closer than a brother? Do you love Him like He loves you? These are things that should be a part of our lives.

**Hymn #170 One Day!**