

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD
JOHN 10:11-18

Introduction

Well this morning we finally get back to our series on the life of Christ as revealed in to us in the **Gospel of John**. Our last message from this series was back on **November 8, 2020** so it has been awhile.

The last messages I preached were three messages surrounding **vs. 10**. This morning let's pick up where we left off and **read verses 11-18!**

Right off we notice here that Jesus made another of his **"I AM"** claims about Himself! He said **I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD**. Thus far we have seen that he has said:

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE (LIVING BREAD) (6:35, 48)
I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (8:12)
BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM (8:58)
I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP (10:7, 9)

The title for this message comes from that statement in **verse 11:**
"JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD"

What did Jesus mean when He said He was **"The Good Shepherd."** We've seen that this chapter contains a lot of references comparing Jesus and His followers to a shepherd and his sheep. So, this morning let's take a look at these verses we just read and let's answer this question:

WHAT MAKES JESUS DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER SHEPHERDS?

I. ONLY JESUS IS INHERENTLY GOOD! (Vs 11; 14)
He didn't say, **"I am A Shepherd,"** or **"I am A GOOD shepherd"** He said, **"I am THE GOOD shepherd."**

He is the ONLY Good Shepherd, there never has been and never will be anyone else like Him!

There are folks who try to proclaim their own goodness, but in reality, when thoroughly examined **NONE** are truly good!

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD
JOHN 10:11-18

Proverbs 20:6—"Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?"

*Psalm 12:1—"Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for **the faithful fail from among the children of men.**"*

Psalm 53:1—"...there is none that doeth good."

*Romans 3:10, 12—"10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:...12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; **there is none that doeth good, no, not one.**"*

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

That is why Scripture warns us about putting our confidence in man!

Psalm 118:8-9—"8 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. 9 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes."

Proverbs 3:26—"For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken."

Colossians 2:8-9—"8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

Have you ever put your confidence in someone at a critical juncture of your life that let you down and made you wish you hadn't put confidence in them? I think most of us have! And the closer that person was to you, the bigger the let down!

Proverbs 25:19 – "Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint."

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD
JOHN 10:11-18

Now understand that there are some leaders through history that **APPEARED** to be good at the beginning, but then the truth of what they really were came out somewhere along the way because in reality they weren't really good at all! (*Cult leaders especially gain their followers this way! e.g. Rev. Jim Jones and the Jamestown cult massacre of 1978 who actually began his following in Indiana in the 1950s*)

The Antichrist, who arises to power during the Tribulation Period, will be this way! (Paul calls him “*that man of sin*” and “*the son of perdition*” in 2 Thessalonians 2:3)!

But he will arrive on the scene as the leader (the shepherd), the savior who has the answer to all of the world's problems! And at first he will be embraced as the one to guide the whole world in a one world government!

But then, in due time, what he really is will be exposed!

There are also some leaders that **STARTED OUT WELL** but later failed as they began yielding to their sinful flesh. The fact of the matter is they weren't good from the beginning! (*e.g. Paul took the better part of Romans 7 to speak of this battle with the flesh that even he had to battle on a daily basis.*)

Romans 7:24-25—“24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 9:27—“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

It is also one of the reasons why he said “**I die daily**”!
(*1 Corinthians 15:31*)

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD
JOHN 10:11-18

So, there are some that **APPEAR** to be good on the surface, but when the whole truth comes out, none of us are good! But **JESUS BOTH WAS AND IS GOOD!**

Matthew 19:16-17 16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, **Good Master**, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17 And he said unto him, **Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God:...**”

Some mistakenly think that Jesus was saying He wasn't God there! But that is NOT the case! He was wanting this one who came to him to understand that **only God is inherently good!** This man needed to know that **only God is able to demonstrate true goodness and Jesus demonstrated true goodness because Jesus is God!**

Psalm 34:8—“O taste and see that **the LORD is good**: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”

Hebrews 4:15—“...**was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**”

Hebrews 7:26—“...**who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;**”

1 Peter 2:22—“**Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:**”

ONLY JESUS IS INHERENTLY GOOD!

II. ONLY JESUS HAS PROVED HIS LOVE! (Vs 11, 15, 17-18)

“The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep” (Vs 11)

Jesus was committed to one thing—fulfilling His Father's will. Maybe we've heard of someone “**having skin in the game**” or “**being all in!**”

John 3:16—“For God **so loved** the world, that **he gave his only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD
JOHN 10:11-18

1 John 3:16—“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us...”

1 John 4:9—“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.”

You see, the greatest PROOF of Jesus’ commitment to His sheep was His willingness to lay down His life for the sheep!

John 15:13—“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” But let’s take this a little farther...

Many of us might be willing to give our life as a substitute for one whom we love and who loves us dearly! But how many of us would sacrifice ALL that we have and SUFFER SEVERELY and then DIE to save one who is unworthy, evil, ungrateful and disobedient? *Romans 5:6–8 “6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

Look at Philippians 2:7-11!

Jesus left the very portals of heaven and all that He had with His Heavenly Father there...He emptied Himself of the independent use of His Divine attributes even though He was and is wholly God!

He humbled Himself to come to earth to take on the form of a servant! He was made in the likeness of man so that He could be the Supreme sacrifice and payment for the sin of all mankind!

He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, and not just death, but even the death on the cross!

He lay aside all that he had in heaven to come and save us! And by His sacrifice, open the doors of heaven to ALL who will believe on Him!

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD
JOHN 10:11-18

That, my friend, is **His GOODNESS demonstrated or PROVED!** Only God could be committed to such a cause! Only God would be able to do such a thing because it took a **PERFECT SACRIFICE!** **Only God did do that! His name is JESUS CHRIST!**

And what He did was that He went **ALL THE WAY TO THE CROSS FOR US!**

Hebrews 12:2-4—“2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. 4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.”

He is the Author of our faith! He is the Finisher of our faith! He endured the cross even though He despised both the shame and the pain and the suffering that He had to endure on our account!

Remember His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane?

Luke 22:42—“Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”

As difficult and as ugly as it was for Him to go through what He went through, **He lay down his life for each and every one of us before we ever were born!**

In fact, **He did it before we ever sinned our first sin!** He did it so that **ALL** of our sin might be atoned or payed for no matter how egregious! He did it so that we might not have to perish in Hell for eternity. *Romans 6:23—“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Conclusion

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who has given his life for His sheep! Are you His sheep? (*Vs 25-29*) **ONLY JESUS IS INHERENTLY GOOD...ONLY JESUS HAS PROVED HIS LOVE!**