

- But - His Goodness Is:
 - An Inner Goodness / Excellence:
 - Because Of His Nature As God In The Flesh!

- In Luke 18:19 - Jesus Said:
 - "None Is Good, Save One, That Is God!"
 - And So - Jesus Himself Is Good:
 - Because He Is God!

5. And - In The Rest Of The Verses:

- That We Will Look At This Morning:
 - Jesus Reveals *Just How Good* He Is:
 - So That His Sheep:
 - Might Grow In Their Faith In:
 - And In Their Faithfulness To:
 - Their Good Shepherd!
- So - Let's Read Together:
 - 10:11-21 - Where Jesus Again Says:
 - "I Am The Good Shepherd!"
 - The Eternal & Exclusive & Most Excellent Shepherd For His Sheep!
 - And Its All Because - "The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. / But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. / The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. / I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. / As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. / And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. / Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. / No man taketh 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 commandment have I received of my Father. / There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings. / And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? / Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?"

6. In These Verses:

- We See Three Great Ways:
 - In Which Jesus Shows Us:
 - Just How Good Of A Shepherd:
 - He Is!
 - And - Because Of His Goodness:
 - His Sheep - You & Me - As Believers In Christ:
 - Can & Should Follow Him:
 - More Closely Than:
 - We Ever Have Before!
 - **IE:** Before The Days Of GPS - Instead Of Just Giving A Friend From Out Of Town Your Address - Would Tell Them To Follow You Home! Of Course - This Never Turned Out As Easy As You Thought It Would! Sometimes - Other Cars Would Get Between You - Or - A Stop-Light Would Get In The Way - Or - The One Following Behind Soon Fell Way Behind - Or Lost Altogether!
 - When It Comes To The Relationship That:
 - The Christian Sheep Have:
 - With Christ Their Shepherd:
 - We Need To Follow Him & Stay Close To Christ!
 - And - You Will:
 - When You Remember Just How Good:
 - Of A Shepherd Jesus Is!

* And - We Can First See His Goodness In 10:11-13 - Where Jesus Expresses:

1. ***His Great Care As The Good Shepherd!***

- His Great Care & Love:
 - For His Sheep!
 - Because - When Jesus Says In 10:11b That:
 - "The Good Shepherd Giveth His Life For The Sheep!"

- He Reveals That:
 - He Cares Fully:
 - For Them! Jesus Cares For His Sheep:
 - In The Fullest Way Possible!
 - He Loves You So Much That He Came:
 - “Giving His Life For The Sheep!”
 - Now - The Word That Is Translated:
 - “Life” Here - Is Also Frequently Translated:
 - “Soul” - And So:
 - When Jesus Came Into This World - He Came To Offer:
 - His Entire Life & Even His Very Soul For His Sheep!
 - And Even Though:
 - Jesus Had In Mind The:
 - “Giving Up” Of His Soul & Life:
 - For Us - Through His Death:
 - On The Cross!
 - Jesus Also “Gave His Soul” For Us:
 - All Throughout His Life:
 - On This Earth!
 - This Means That:
 - Jesus Offered Himself For You:
 - Continuously!
 - When Jesus Came:
 - He Came To Call You To Himself:
 - Because You Could Not Come To Him Yourself!
 - When Jesus Came:
 - He Came To Live The Life:
 - That You Could Not Live Yourself!
 - When Jesus Came:
 - He Came To Face The Enemies:
 - That You Could Not Face Yourself!
 - And - When Jesus Came:
 - He Came - Ultimately - To Die The Death:
 - That You & I Deserved To Die!
 - And - Jesus Did All Of This:
 - “Giving His Life For The Sheep!”
 - Because He Loves & Cares For You:
 - Fully! Completely!
 - But Then - To Further Show His Care:
 - Jesus Brings Another Character Into His Story! A “Hireling” - Or - A Hired Servant:
 - That Would Often Be Paid To Watch / Baby-Sit The Sheep!
 - And - The Difference Between The Care:
 - Of The Shepherd & The Hireling:
 - Is Great! Because:
 - As The Good Shepherd, Jesus Also:
- Cares Faithfully:
 - For His Sheep - Which Is Nothing Like:
 - The Hired-Hand In 10:12-13:
 - “But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. / The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep!”
 - Now - This Hireling:
 - Did What He Did:
 - Simply Because It Was Just A Job For Him! And Because He:
 - “Careth Not For The Sheep!”
 - So - Since The Sheep Did Not Belong To Him:
 - He Was Not About To:
 - Risk His Life For Those Sheep!

- Not Enough Pay In The World!
- But - All That The Hireling Was:
 - The Good Shepherd Is Different!
 - Even The Opposite!
 - Because He Does Care For The Sheep! With All Of His Heart & Soul!
- So - Though The Hireling:
 - Was Spineless In His Response:
 - To The Wolf - "Seeing & Leaving & Fleeing!"
 - The Good Shepherd:
 - Would Be Strong & Courageous:
 - Because He Loves & Cares For His Sheep!
- And - Though The Hireling:
 - Was Selfish In His Response:
 - Even As The Sheep Were "Sieved & Scattered" By The Wolf!
 - The Good Shepherd:
 - Would Be Selfless & Committed:
 - Because He Loves & Cares For His Sheep!
- And This Is Why:
 - The True Sheep Of Christ:
 - Can & Ought To Follow Him:
 - As Close As They Can!
 - Because Of:
 - His Great Care & Love:
 - For You!
 - A Care That Is:
 - As Full & As Faithful:
 - As It Can Be! Infinitely So!
 - Never Forget:
 - Just How Much:
 - The Good Shepherd:
 - Cares For You!
 - This Is Something That:
 - Charles Weigle Grasped When He Penned These Words:
 - "No One Ever Cared For Me Like Jesus, There's No Other Friend So Kind As He; No One Else Could Take The Sin And Darkness From Me, O How Much He Cared For Me!"
 - Jesus Is Such A Good Shepherd:
 - Because Of His Great Care:
 - For His Sheep!
 - Now - Follow Him & Stay Close To Christ!

* We Can Also See His Goodness In 10:14-15 - Where Jesus Reveals:

2. His Great Connection As The Good Shepherd!

- His Great Connection & Relationship:
 - With His Sheep!
 - Where Jesus Repeats His Premise:
 - "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. / As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep!"
 - And - We Can See That:
 - The Connection & Relationship That:
 - Jesus Has With His Sheep Is:
- A Close Connection!
 - When Jesus Says - 10:14:
 - "I Know My Sheep, And Am Known Of Mine!"
 - He Describes A Relationship:
 - That Is Very Close & Personal!
 - First - Jesus Says:
 - He Knows His Sheep!
 - Here - Jesus Is Talking About:

- A Special Connection With Those Who Believe In & Belong To Him!
- Though In Other Places:
 - In John - We Are Told That:
 - Jesus Knows Us & What Is In Us In A General Way!
- Yet Here - Jesus Is Talking About:
 - A Special Knowledge:
 - That Is Based On A Relationship!
 - **IE:** "Know" Someone Generally Or Personally!
- Jesus Knows You Perfectly!
- But Then - Jesus Adds:
 - "And Am Known Of Mine!"
 - The Way This Is Put Means That:
 - Jesus Has Chosen To Reveal Himself To His Sheep:
 - So That They Can Get To Know Him Better!
 - So - Even Though Jesus Knows:
 - His Sheep Perfectly - You Have The Opportunity:
 - To Get To Know Your Shepherd:
 - Personally & Progressively!
- And - It Is This Close Connection:
 - With The Sheep:
 - That Qualifies Jesus To Be:
 - Their Shepherd!
 - But - Then - In 10:15:
 - Jesus Adds - "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father!"
 - Which Shows:
- A Complete Connection:
 - Between Jesus & His Father!
 - Of Course - The Knowledge That:
 - God The Father Has Of His Son:
 - And - The Knowledge That:
 - God The Son Has Of His Father:
 - Is Something That Is Beyond Our Capacity To Understand!
 - But - Their Knowledge Of Each Other:
 - Is Both Intimate & Infinite!
 - Total & Complete!
 - And - Jesus Connects:
 - Their Knowledge:
 - With The Knowledge That Exists:
 - Between The Shepherd & His Sheep!
 - This Is How:
 - Intimate Your Relationship:
 - Now Is & Can Be:
 - With Christ!
 - And - It Is This Complete Connection:
 - With His Father:
 - That Qualifies Jesus To Be:
 - The "Good Shepherd!"
 - Since Jesus:
 - Is Good - This Means That:
 - He Can Do Good!
 - And - The Best Thing:
 - That He Could Do Was:
 - 10:15b - To - "Lay Down His Life For His Sheep!"
 - This Is How Good:
 - Jesus Is As:
 - The Shepherd Of His Sheep!
 - In The Old Testament:
 - King David Started Out:

- As A Shepherd!
- And - He Was A Strong & Selfless Shepherd!
 - Nothing Like The Hireling!
 - Even To The Point That When:
 - A Lion & A Bear Came & Took A Lamb Out Of His Father's Flock!
 - 1 Samuel 17:35 - David Killed Them Both:
 - And Delivered The Lamb Out Of Their Mouths!
- What Made David A Good Shepherd:
 - Was Because He *Risked* His Life:
 - In Order To Meet The Physical Need:
 - Of His Father's Sheep!
- However - What Makes Jesus:
 - Such A Good Shepherd:
 - Is That He *Gave* His Life:
 - In Order To Meet The Spiritual Needs:
 - Of His Father's Sheep!
 - So That We Can Have:
 - A Close & Complete Connection & Relationship With God:
 - Through Faith & Trust In Jesus!
 - But - When We Come Next To:
 - 10:16 - We See That The Connection:
 - Jesus Has With His Sheep Is:
- A Comprehensive Connection!
 - Because - Jesus Adds:
 - "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd!"
 - The First Sheep-Fold:
 - Jesus Described - Back In 10:1:
 - Was The Fold Of:
 - The Old Covenant, Jewish World!
 - And - In Spite Of All Of The:
 - Privileges & Advantages They Had:
 - Only Some Of The Sheep:
 - In That Fold:
 - Were Truly His!
 - However - Here - He Describes:
 - Another Sheep-Fold:
 - Which Can Only Be The Fold Of:
 - The Gentile World!
 - But - From This Fold:
 - He Has Some Sheep:
 - As Well!
 - This Is Why - Even Before:
 - The Apostle Paul Entered The Pagan City Of Corinth - To Start Telling Them:
 - About The Gospel:
 - That Jesus Came To Him:
 - "In The Night By A Vision" - To Tell Him That - "I Have Much People In This City!"
 - Its Because He Knew Them Already!
 - Those Gentile Sheep Belonged To Him Even Before They Were Brought To Him!
 - Though This Was Probably:
 - A Shocking Statement For Jesus To Make:
 - In Front Of All Of Those Jews:
 - It Really Didn't Have To Be!
 - After All - Wasn't This:
 - God's Own Promise To The Patriarch Abraham Generations Before?
 - "In Thy Seed Shall All The Nations Of The Earth Be Blessed!"

- And So - Jesus Came So That:
 - All People - Jews & Gentiles Alike:
 - Might Find In Him:
 - To Be The “Good Shepherd!”
 - The “Good Shepherd” Who Would:
 - Come For Them!
 - Call To Them! And Then:
 - Conduct / Guide Them:
 - To The Safety & Security & Satisfaction Of His Salvation!
 - Just As He Described Back In:
 - 10:9 - “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture!”
- And This Too Is Why:
 - You Can & Ought To Follow Christ:
 - Just As Closely As You Can!
 - Because Of:
 - His Great Care:
 - For You! And:
 - Because Of:
 - His Great Connection:
 - With You!
 - When Jesus Is Your Shepherd:
 - Your Relationship With Him:
 - Is Close & Complete & Comprehensive!
 - And - He Has Already Done:
 - All That Is Necessary:
 - For You To Follow Him:
 - And Grow In Your Relationship With Him!
 - So - What Are We Waiting For?
 - But Then - From 10:17-18:
 - We Can See Just How Good Of A Shepherd Jesus Is - Because Of:

3. ***His Great Calling As The Good Shepherd!***

- His Great Calling:
 - For His Sheep!
 - 10:17-18 - “Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. / No man taketh 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 commandment have I received of my Father!”
 - For The Third & Fourth Time:
 - In This Passage:
 - Jesus Talks About:
 - “Laying Down His Life!”
 - And - He Keeps Using This Phrase:
 - Because - This Was His Great Calling:
 - As The Good Shepherd!
 - But - This Time:
 - He Describes It As The Very Reason:
 - For His Father’s Love:
 - For Him!
 - Now - This Does Not This Mean That:
 - His Fathers Love For Him:
 - Was Conditional!
 - As If He Was Waiting On Jesus:
 - To “Lay Down His Life” For His Sheep!
 - Instead - It Means That:
 - His Father’s Love For Him:
 - Was Constant!
 - Because - “Laying Down His Life” Was:

- Their Joint Plan & Purpose:
 - From The Very Beginning!
- And - The Ultimate Calling:
 - Of Jesus - As The Good Shepherd:
 - Was To Express God's Everlasting Love:
 - For His Sheep!
 - Even As We Are Told In:
 - Romans 5:8 - "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!"
- And So - Jesus Is Good:
 - Because He Came:
 - To Fulfill His Calling:
- In A Sacrificial Way!
 - This Is What Jesus Means:
 - When He Says Again & Again:
 - 10:17 - "I Lay Down My Life!"
 - Now - What *Most* Sheep Need:
 - In This World:
 - Are Living Shepherds!
 - Who Will Care For Them & Their Most Vital, Physical Needs:
 - Like Protection & Provision & Peace!
 - But - What *God's* Sheep Needed:
 - Most In This World:
 - Was A Shepherd:
 - Who Would Die For Them!
 - And - Through His Death:
 - Meet The Spiritual Needs:
 - Of We Who Have Gone Astray!
 - And This Is:
 - The Great Calling:
 - That Jesus Came To Fulfill!
 - And - He Did So:
 - As The Sacrifice For Our Sins!
 - And This Is Why:
 - He Is Such A Good Shepherd!
 - But - We Can Also See:
 - From 10:17 - That Jesus Came:
 - To Fulfill His Calling:
- In A Sufficient Way!
 - This Is What Jesus Means:
 - When He Says:
 - 10:17 - "That I Might Take It Again!"
 - This Is A Veiled Reference:
 - To The Resurrection Of Jesus:
 - Which We Will Celebrate:
 - In Just Two Weeks Time!
 - Because - "It" - Refers To:
 - His Life & His Soul!
 - If Jesus Could Lay Down His Life:
 - Of His Own Accord:
 - Then He Could Take Up His Life:
 - By His Own Authority!
 - Which Is Why Jesus Then Adds:
 - 10:18a - "No Man Taketh 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!"
 - And - When Jesus Rose From The Dead:
 - It Meant That:
 - His Sacrifice Was:

- Complete & Sufficient For The Sins Of His Sheep!
- This Too Is Part Of:
 - The Great Calling:
 - That Jesus Came To Fulfill!
 - To Be Raised Back:
 - To Life - After His Death:
 - So That He Might Keep:
 - All Of His Promises To His People!
 - Promises Like:
 - John 14:19 - "Because I Live, Ye Shall Live Also!"
 - And - This Too Is Why:
 - Jesus Is Such A Good Shepherd!
 - But - We Then See:
 - From 10:18b - That Jesus Came:
 - To Fulfill His Calling:
- In A Submissive Way!
 - Everything He Did:
 - He Did Because:
 - "This commandment have I received of my Father!"
 - Once Again - We Get A Glimpse:
 - Of The Mysterious Relationship:
 - Between God The Father & God The Son!
 - Because - For Their Mutual Glory:
 - Jesus Christ Submitted Himself:
 - To The Eternal Will & Commandment Of The Father!
 - And Yet - Christ's Will:
 - Was The Same As:
 - His Father's Will!
 - No Conflict! No Contradiction!
 - Only The Desire To:
 - Manifest The Love & Life Of God:
 - In This World!
- And This Too Is Why:
 - You Can & Ought To Follow Christ:
 - As Your Shepherd:
 - As Close As You Can:
 - As His Sheep!
 - Because Of:
 - His Great Care:
 - For You!
 - Because Of:
 - His Great Connection:
 - With You! And:
 - Because Of:
 - His Great Calling:
 - For You!
 - When Jesus Came:
 - To Fulfill His Calling:
 - To Save You - Through His Life & Death & Resurrection:
 - He Did So:
 - Sacrificially!
 - Sufficiently! And:
 - Submissively!
 - And - All This:
 - Is What Makes Him:
 - Such A Good Shepherd!

Conclusion:

1. How Will You Respond:
 - To His Goodness Today?
 - How Closely Are You Following Christ?
 - Well - As We Read From:
 - 10:19 - Even Then:
 - “There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings!”
 - These Sayings Of Jesus:
 - Often Cause:
 - Division & Dissension!
 - Even Though They Reveal Him To Be:
 - Such A Good Shepherd!
2. From 10:20 - We Can See:
 - The Response Of:
 - Further Rejection!
 - “And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?”
 - Sadly - This Is Still:
 - The Response Of Many!
 - They Refuse To:
 - Believe In & Follow Jesus:
 - As The Good Shepherd!
 - And - They Will Do All They Can:
 - To Keep Others From:
 - Doing So As Well! And Yet:
 - 3. From 10:21 - We Can See:
 - The Response Of:
 - Further Reception!
 - “Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?”
 - 4. What Will Your Response Be?
 - Because Jesus Is:
 - Such A Good Shepherd:
 - Follow Him As Closely:
 - As You Can!

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