

Morning Sermon August 12, 2018
"Our Shepherd's Powers" John 10:14-30

I. Intimate, detailed loving knowledge, and the power of relationship –

"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... (John 10:14-15 NKJ)

1. Knowledge of sheep (us) – this is the power of relationship, the power of love –

There is a mutual knowing portrayed in John 10:14-15, a team, a partnership is implied

:14 between the Shepherd and His sheep

:15 A Between God the Father and God the Son, a loving unity – God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit form a loving Trinity, this is why the Scripture says - **God is love.** (1 John 4:8 NKJ)

Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:12 NKJ)

2. This is the power of Christ's Shepherding knowledge for of each of us –

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.³² "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."³³ But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death."³⁴ Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me." (Luke 22:31-34 NKJ)

Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'³² "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."³³ Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble."³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." (Matthew 26:31-34 NKJ)

A. Jesus' shepherding knowledge included a knowledge of the enemy, Satan – Luke 22:31

- B. And of the future: Satan would have a opportunity to sift Peter a bit
 - C. But the power of Jesus' prayer would keep Peter's faith from failing – Luke 22:32
 - D. The scattering of the flock, the stumbling would be something that would happen to the entire flock – Matthew 26:31
 - E. Of course, Christ knew His own powers, including resurrection power – Matthew 26:32
 - F. He obviously knew Peter better than Peter knew himself, consider :33 both in Matthew 26 & Luke 22
 - G. Christ knew of Peter's failure and denial, yet He still loved him
3. Our relationship with God / Christ / Our Shepherd is our great strength –

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. (Ephesians 6:10 NKJ)

My sports, basketball career highlights ...

II. Life and death powers, even over His own death and life –

... and I lay down My life for the sheep. (John 10:15 NKJ)

"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 NKJ)

- 1. The Greek word here translated power is *exousia*, it has a wide range of meaning:
 - A. It refers to a power of Ability, and Strength
 - B. But also, a power of Authority and Right
 - C. And a power of Will

We speak of a person's "will to live" yet that is NOT *exousia* ...

"Death, as a king rampant and stout the world he dare engage;
He conquers all, yea, and doth rout the great, strong, wise, and sage.
No king so great, nor prince so strong, but death can make to yield,
Yea, bind and lay them all along, and make them quit the field.

**Where are the victors of the world, with all their men of might?
Those that together kingdoms hurl'd, by death are put to flight."**

John Bunyan

*In our war with Death, a will live may help someone win some battles
but Death usually wins the war!*

Christ's will about death was totally under His power

2. *He had a RIGHT to live forever, never to die because He was sinless*
3. *He had power to live forever because He is God!*
4. *He had a will to die because He was obedient to His Father's command – John 10:18*

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 2:8 NKJ)

5. *Christ's death is a great benefit and POWER for us –*

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJ)

6. *He had ability, strength, power, right, authority to raise and again too – John 10:18*

III. Living-forever powers –

1. *These powers are implied in John 10:16*

"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 NKJ)

2. *They are clearly stated in other Scripture passages –*

But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:24-25 NKJ)

IV. Miraculous healing powers –

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 NKJ)

1. *These were despised by many – John 10:19-20*
2. *Noted as a distinguishing ability by those who seem to be recognizing the truth about Christ!*

V. Magnetic, unbreakable grip powers –

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.²⁸ "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.²⁹ "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.³⁰ "I and My Father are one." (John 10:27-30 NKJ)

1. *An irresistible VOICE –*

- A. *We follow Christ, maybe even running – John 10:27*

but the man put his fingers in his ears, and ran on, crying, "Life! life! Eternal life!" So he looked not behind him, but fled towards the middle of the plain.
John Bunyan, Pilgrim's Progress

- *This is the perseverance of the Saints*

- B. *Our response is a response to love -*

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

- C. *The reasonable response to great grace –*

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (Romans 12:1 NKJ)

2. *An unbreakable grip –*

- A. *An eternal life grip – John 10:28*

- B. *A Double-God Grip: double in Their purpose to save, and double in Their power to save*

- C. *Nothing can separate us from this Loving Grip –*

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35-39 NKJ)

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