

Jesus Is The Good Shepherd

October 1, 2017

Scripture:

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² 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. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. (John 10:11-15, ESV)

From the Introduction:

- What are the qualities of a good shepherd?
- How important is it to you to know that in Jesus these qualities abide?

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1) Compassion (Mk 6:34)

³⁴When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.” (Mk 6:34, ESV)

- a) Sheep need a shepherd to _____ them.
- b) As our shepherd, Jesus came to _____ us the way to the Father,

2) Caring (Mt 18:12-14)

¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.” (Mt 18:12–14, ESV)

- a) Sheep need a shepherd who will _____ them.
- b) As our shepherd, Jesus _____ us in our lostness.

3) Commitment (Mt 15:24)

²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” (Mt 15:24, ESV)

- a) Sheep need a shepherd _____ to them.
- b) As our shepherd, Jesus came to _____ us back to the kingdom of God.

Remember:

³Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. (Jer. 23:3, ESV)

Reflect:

God has, in fact, thought of us from eternity and has loved us as unique individuals. He has called every one of us by name, as the Good Shepherd 'calls His sheep by name.' – Pope John Paul II

Seek:

- 1) You have probably been in church when someone from the platform cries out, “God is good,” and the congregation recites back. “All the time!” What does it mean to you to know the God is good?

- 2) It has been said, “words mean something.” Just as a dog’s bark is different from a tree’s bark, so is God’s goodness different from our goodness. Why is it important for us to understand God’s goodness in this context?

Share:

- 1) Read Luke 18:18-30
 - a) The Greek word for ‘good’ in this passage is different than the one used by Jesus in John 10:11. In John, the word *kalos* means “excellent in its nature or characteristics, therefore well adapted to its ends.” In Luke, the word *agathos* means “good, pleasant, agreeable, distinguished, or upright.” Why do you

believe the use of *kalos* is important for us in understanding Jesus as our “Good Shepherd”?

2) Reread John 10:14-15:

- a) Jesus tells his disciples that he “knows” his sheep, and the sheep “know” him. The Greek word, *ginōskō*, can mean “to become known” or “to know and understand.” As it relates to Jesus, is it more important for you to see Jesus as “knowing and understanding” you as you are, or for you to “become known” to him? Or as both important? Why?

Serve:

- 1) How important is it for you to know that, by His very nature, Jesus alone is capable for fulfilling the role of Shepherd in your life?
- 2) What can you do this week to bring others into the sheepfold, that they will come to know Jesus as their shepherd?

Pray:

Pray together, in complete sentence prayers, thanking God for His goodness, and for sending the “Good Shepherd” to redeem you and all who choose to willingly know His voice.