

Jesus: The Good Shepherd

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep...I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.” – John 10:11, 14

I. This morning I have entitled my study: “Jesus: The Good Shepherd”

- a. **In John Chapter 10, the Lord Jesus tells us that He is the “Good Shepherd”**
 - i. Now, this specific title used by Jesus to describe Himself would have had great *meaning* and *significance* to the people who heard Him
 - ii. You see, in Biblical Times, the people were very familiar with the work of a Shepherd (*not like today in the west*)
 - iii. In those days, many people worked as Shepherds, knew Shepherds, lived by Shepherds, or traded with Shepherds
 - iv. The “Shepherd” had an important role within the community and culture of that day (*as it still does in the middle east*)
- b. **Therefore, when Jesus told the people that He was the “Good Shepherd,” immediately, He would have grabbed their attention...**
 - i. The people would have declared to themselves, ***“The Good Shepherd? Jesus wants to be my Shepherd? Jesus wants to have that type of Relationship with me? Jesus wants to play that role in my life?”***
 - ii. This statement by the Lord would have instantly grabbed the attention of the people and stirred their hearts – ***“I am the Good Shepherd”***
- c. **The work of a Shepherd was not easy (*much was expected from Him*)**
 - i. He had complete responsibility over His Sheep (He never left them):
 - ii. If the Sheep were in need, the Shepherd was responsible to provide...
 - iii. If the Sheep were in danger, the Shepherd was responsible to protect...
 - iv. If the Sheep were in confusion, the Shepherd was responsible to direct and guide...
 - v. If the Sheep were in distress, the Shepherd was responsible to comfort and console...
 - vi. If the Sheep were in pain, the Shepherd was responsible to heal...
 - vii. If a Sheep was lost, the Shepherd was responsible to find...
 - viii. You might say, the Sheep were completely and utterly dependent upon their Shepherd – ***“The Shepherd was all they had!”***
- d. **And knowing this relationship, knowing the great responsibility, the Lord Jesus declared, “I am the Good Shepherd”**
 - i. He wants to be our Shepherd; He wants to have complete responsibility over our lives; He wants us to be completely dependent upon Him
 - ii. In the midst of need, He wants to provide...
 - iii. In the midst of danger, He wants to protect...
 - iv. In the midst of confusion, He wants to direct...
 - v. In the midst of distress, He wants to comfort...
 - vi. In the midst of pain, He wants to heal...

- e. Jesus wants to be our “Good Shepherd”
 - i. He wants to play that vital role in your life (*He is capable*); He wants to be significant in your life (*He is willing*); He wants to **bring blessings** to your life (*He is able*)
- f. You see, Jesus knows how much we need a Shepherd in this world
 - i. Needs constantly arise before us, Danger consistently surrounds us, Decisions frequently confront us, Distress persistently troubles us, Pain relentlessly torments us, the list goes on and on...
 - ii. The challenges and obstacles of life are overwhelming, and on our own, in and of ourselves, we can't make it, we can't do it
 - iii. We need a Shepherd – We need the Good Shepherd mentioned in **John 10:11** – We need the Great Shepherd mentioned in **Hebrews 13:20** – We need the Chief Shepherd mentioned in **1 Peter 5:4** – We need Jesus Christ...
 - iv. I am not ashamed to say that I need Jesus! This morning we gather together because we recognize our great need for the good Shepherd!
 - v. I can't make it own my own – the journey is too long, the road is too difficult, and the path is too hard
 - vi. I need a Shepherd...I need the Good Shepherd...
- g. And this morning, Jesus declares to each one of us, “Let me be your Shepherd! Let me be significant in your life! Let me bring blessings to your life!”
 - i. The blessings that come from following the Good Shepherd are vast and numerous...
 - ii. Let me show you what I'm talking about:

II. Please turn with me to Psalm 23

- a. In Psalm 23, David begins to describe the blessings that come from having the Lord as your Shepherd
 - i. And this morning, I want to share with you “**seven blessings**” given to those who follow the Good Shepherd
 - ii. After you study this Psalm, you will begin to realize why the Lord tells us that He is the “**Good Shepherd**”
 - iii. David would later write in **Psalm 34:8**, “**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good**” – David experienced first-hand the blessings that come from having the Lord as your Shepherd
 - iv. And David shares them with us here in Psalm chapter 23...
- b. Blessing #1 – “Provision”
 - i. In **verse 1-2a**, David declared, “**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures...**”
 - ii. Because the Lord was his Shepherd, David was not lacking any good thing or in need – “**I shall not want**”

- iii. As a shepherd provides for his sheep, so the Lord faithfully provides for the needs of His people – Amen.
- iv. Those who follow the Lord shall lack no good thing – the Lord has given us His word that He is going to provide for all our needs and He will keep His Word!
- v. **Philippians 4:19** declares, “*And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus*”
- vi. Share the testimony of your tax returns (\$600)
- c. **Blessing #2 – “Peace”**
 - i. In **verse 2b**, David continues by declaring, “...*He leads me beside still waters...*”
 - ii. Because the Lord was his Shepherd, David was experiencing perfect peace and tranquility – “**still waters**”
 - iii. Those who follow the Lord Jesus are able to experience perfect peace and tranquility from His presence...
 - iv. Listen, you will never find true peace in life until you give your life to the Prince of Peace
 - v. He is the only one who can bring peace into your life...
 - vi. In **John 14:27**, the Lord Jesus declared to His disciples, “*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid*”
 - vii. This morning find peace in the Good Shepherd!
- d. **Blessing #3 – “Restoration”**
 - i. In **verse 3a**, David continues by declaring, “*He restores my soul...*”
 - ii. Because the Lord was his Shepherd, David was constantly finding restoration and reconciliation back to God (*David made mistakes*)
 - iii. The Lord Jesus graciously provides forgiveness and restoration for all those who seek after Him
 - iv. Listen, you will never exhaust the forgiveness of God – His forgiveness is infinite, limitless, measureless, and boundless
 - v. **1 John 1:7b** declares, “...*the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin*”
- e. **Blessing #4 – “Guidance”**
 - i. In **verse 3b**, David continues by declaring, “...*He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake*”
 - ii. Because the Lord was his Shepherd, David was being guided and directed in the right paths
 - iii. In life, you will be confronted with many questions that need answers and many decisions that need to be made – “*What should I do?*”
 - iv. And it is comforting to know that the Lord Jesus will always be there to bring direction and guidance to my life...

- v. He is the faithful guide who will never steer me in the wrong direction, but He leads me in the paths of righteousness
- vi. In **Psalm 32:8**, the Lord declares, ***“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye”***
- f. **Blessing #5 – “Protection”**
 - i. In **verse 4**, David continues by declaring, ***“Yea, 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.”***
 - ii. Because the Lord was his shepherd, David was not afraid to walk through the valley of the shadow of death (*confront the trials of life*)
 - iii. The Lord protects and guards all those who follow Him...
 - iv. Daily, we are confronted with hungry lions (enemies) who seek to devour us – ***“The devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”*** Cf. 1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:12
 - v. Yet, in spite of our many enemies, we need not to be afraid, for the Good Shepherd is watching over us
 - vi. He will surely protect us and keep us from all danger and harm – He will never leave us nor forsake us, but will always be with us...
 - vii. **Psalm 118:6** declares, ***“The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”*** Cf. **Romans 8:31**
- g. **Blessing #6 – “Favor”**
 - i. In **verse 6a**, David continues by declaring, ***“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...”***
 - ii. Because the Lord was his Shepherd, David was able to experience divine favor (*goodness and mercy followed him*)
 - iii. In the same way, those who follow the Lord Jesus will experience the Divine Favor of God
 - iv. Goodness and Mercy of God will follow you all the days of your life – You will be blessed by God...
 - v. When you go to work, goodness and mercy will follow; when you go to school, goodness and mercy will follow; when you go to the store, goodness and mercy will follow; when you go home, goodness and mercy will follow
 - vi. I don’t know about you, but I want the favor of God to be upon my life, I want God to bless me in all my ways –
 - vii. And the blessings are found in the Good Shepherd...
- h. **Blessing #7 – “Communion”**
 - i. In **verse 6b**, David continues by declaring, ***“...And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”***
 - ii. Because the Lord was his Shepherd, David was able to enjoy constant, everlasting communion with God

- iii. And this communion is available to all those who follow the Lord Jesus – One day, we will dwell in the Father’s house forever
- iv. In **John 14:1-3**, the Lord Jesus declared, *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”*

III. Therefore, you can see the abundant blessings that come from having the Lord as your “Shepherd”

- a. Provision, peace and tranquility, restoration and forgiveness, guidance and direction, protection and safety, favor, communion w/ God, all these blessings and so much more is found in the Good Shepherd – Jesus Christ
 - i. Truly, He is the Good Shepherd and we are His sheep...

IV. And this morning, I want to end by sharing this brief-story

- a. In the 1920’s, some friends of a very famous actor threw a great party in his honor
 - i. Hundreds of guests came to celebrate the life of the famous actor...
 - ii. During the party someone asked the great actor to give his version of the beloved twenty-third Psalm
 - iii. The actor agreed and began to recite the Psalm – with great charisma, charm, and emotion, he recited the entire chapter
 - iv. As he finished quoting the Psalm, the people were ecstatic and rose to their feet in applause and celebration
 - v. Then, all of a sudden, from the back of the room, an old gray-headed gentleman asked if he could also recite the beloved Psalm
 - vi. The people agreed and the elderly gentleman worked his way to the front of the room and began to recite the Psalm
 - vii. As he finished quoting the Psalm, the people were dead silent and there was not a dry eye in the room
 - viii. Later on, at the end of the party, the actor was told by his good friend, *“You know what, I think the elderly gentleman out-performed you today – his rendition of the Psalm was so much better than yours”*
 - ix. The famous actor responded, *“Yes! I Agree! You see, I know the Psalm, but he knows the Shepherd”*
- b. And this morning, I would encourage you not to only know the Psalm, but get to know the Shepherd...