

**"I am the Good Shepherd" - John 10:11, 14**

Shall we turn this morning to (John 10:11). In verse 11, He declares: "**I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for His sheep.** And then jump down to verse 14, "**I am the good shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine.**" So in verse 11, underline "I am the good shepherd." And then again in verse 14, underline the words "good shepherd". So twice He mentions in (John 10) that He is the good shepherd. The background is so critical for you understanding what He is talking about.

You need to go back, and not now, but in your minds to chapter 9 where, you remember, He healed the man who could not see. And He begins to mix up the mud and He spits in it and sticks it in the guy's eye. And that is a horrible thing to think about. I'm almost thankful that I was blind and He did that that I didn't have to see it. But the man really didn't care because, of course, he was blind. And so he had this piece of mud in his eye, and the Lord told him now to go down and wash it in the river. And when he washed it then he was able to see, and that's kind of interesting. We looked at that in chapter 9. But the moment He made the mud, He violated the law of the Pharisees and the scribes because He was now working on the Sabbath. Jesus did most of His miracles on the Sabbath because He was seeking to make a very important point in the life of the Pharisees and the Scribes. But they were blinded to the truth, that He was the Lord of the Sabbath. That He made the Sabbath; and that healing on the Sabbath was not violating their law. For their law gave them permission to pull out an animal if he was caught; but when He would heal a blind man or He

would tell a man with a withered hand to stretch it forth or He would tell a woman to stand up straight or He would heal the dead on the Sabbath - they went ballistic. And that's the danger of being a Pharisee, is that you become insensitive to the moving of God's Spirit. That all you see is the things that someone has violated, but you are not able to see the work God is doing deep within the heart of people.

And so He comes to chapter 10 and is explaining why they were not getting what He was doing. And you remember He declared, **"I am the door and no man can enter unless he comes through the door."** And we saw that Jesus is the door. And if you want a relationship with Christ then you need to come through Him. Well they were unwilling; the Jews and the Scribes. Now He begins to share that He is "The Shepherd" and He is the "Good Shepherd". Let me read to you verses 22–30 and kind of give you a picture of where the Scribes and Pharisees were. **"And it was at Jerusalem during the feast of the dedication"** (And that would be during the time where they would celebrate the "festival of lights" where Maccabees, you remember, destroyed Antiochus Epiphanes back in about 165 BC, and it was during the winter so it would be around the month of December) **And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. Then came the Jews round about Him, and said unto Him, "How long dost thou make us to doubt? (Why do you make us doubt) If you are the Christ, then tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believe not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bare witness of Me."** (So I have told you and you have not believed; My very works have testified and you still do not believe.) Verse 26: **"But ye believe not, because ye are not of My sheep (so underline, not of my sheep) as I said unto you. My sheep hear My voice, (Oh, what a great verse to underline) I know them, (and underline that) they follow Me (and underline that.)** In verse 26, **"You are not My sheep"**. In verse 27, **"They hear Me, they know Me, and they follow Me.** And in verse 28, **"And I give unto**

**them eternal life; and they shall never perish; neither shall any man pluck them out of My hands. My Father which gave them to Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand. I and my Father are one."** (John 10:22-30)

And from that moment they sought to destroy again the Lord Jesus Christ. But before we get there we realize that He is speaking to these Pharisees. He is saying, **"I am the Shepherd"**. And so if you need a Shepherd, He is the Great Shepherd, He is the Good Shepherd, He is the Chief Shepherd. And when you think of the nation of Israel you think of shepherds. Amos was a shepherd, David was a shepherd, and Solomon was a shepherd. When you think of the Old Testament you think of Moses who was a shepherd. And on and on there were men, even Abel was the first of all shepherds, there in life in the beginning; and we find that he offered that sacrifice unto the Lord. It would be like saying that cowboys come from Texas, or like trees are grown in Oregon, or that there are beaches in California. I mean shepherds are all over the place. And the interesting thing is that God declared: that **"I am the Shepherd of Israel"**. And I'm also the Shepherd of those who do not know Me, the other flock.

Now in Psalm 22 and Psalm 23 and Psalm 24, it mentions, kind of interesting, about three important issues. In Psalm 22, it declares that "He is the Good Shepherd; He is willing to lay His life down there on the cross of Calvary." In Psalm 23, "He is the Great Shepherd". In other words He is alive, willing to walk with you through the very difficult times of your life, willing to follow you with surely goodness and mercy, and to help you to get into the Kingdom of God. In Psalm 24, it declares, "He is the Chief Shepherd" that "He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords." So in Psalm 22, it is a picture of His Priesthood. In Psalm 23, it is a picture of Him as a Prophet. In Psalm 24, it is a picture of Him as a King. One more time, in Psalm 22 it is the past; in Psalm 23 it is the present; in Psalm 24 it is the future. And the reason why I'm saying that is

because in Psalm 22 it is the "Cross of Jesus Christ"; and God has dealt with all of our sins. And Jesus Christ is the Priest, and He is the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep. In Psalm 23 we find that not only is He the Good Shepherd, but also He becomes the Great Shepherd. In that He understands His sheep, He is willing to do a work and it speaks of the present, and He is the Great Shepherd. And in Psalm 24 He is not only the King, but He becomes the Chief Shepherd, the one who becomes the bishop of our soul.

And so this morning I want to look at this very simple passage in John 10:10- 11 and declare three important issues this morning: Number one, "He is the Good Shepherd". Number two: "He is the Great Shepherd". Number three: "He is the Chief Shepherd". And so in John 10:11, **"I am the good shepherd: and the good shepherd gives his life for his sheep."** **"I am the good shepherd,** (John 10:14) **and know my sheep and am known of mine."** Well the first thing I realized about being a good shepherd is that you must be willing to die. A hireling runs when the wolves come. A hireling will give up the sheep if he doesn't want to attack the enemy, or the thief or the robber who is coming to steal and to kill. But a good shepherd is willing to die for his sheep.

So the first thing I need to put in my mind and in my heart about my Shepherd, is His whole theme of life, was His willingness to die that I would live. So I stand before you, because He was willing to die. And so it declares in verse 9, He saved us. **"I am the door: by Me if any man enters in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."** The first thing that He did for me as a Good Shepherd is He found me. When I was alienated from God I was a stranger away from God, He saved me. He reached out from the gutter and He took me to the outermost. In other words, He saved me in a wonderful way. But not only did God save me, it declares in verse 9, but check it out in verse 14, He knows me. **"I am the good Shepherd, and know My sheep."** It's one thing for God to save you, to pull you out of that horrible pit, to place your foot

upon the rock, to pull you out of a bondage situation or to bring you into a salvation situation and then to let you go. But because He's the Good Shepherd, He knows you. He knows your makeup, He knows your nature, and He knows the very necessity that you need in life. He knows your personality, He knows how discouraged you get, He knows how rebellious we can become, He knows how much we love to do things and He knows everything about us. And He wants us to know that, that I know you. I know what you feel like when you wake up, and I know what you feel like when you go to bed. And it is the responsibility of the Shepherd to know the state of the flock. And so He is one who looks over your life on a constant basis. He evaluates and checks out the ticks and makes sure that there is nothing wrong in your life. And so He is dropping in on you constantly, and that is the work of the Holy Spirit.

But not only does He know me and He saved me, but check out in verse 3, He calls me. In verse 3, **"To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calls his own sheep by name."** And so He is calling me, "Steven, come." You remember He came to Zacchaeus, and looked up a tree and said, "Hey Zach", He didn't say Zach, He said, **"Zacchaeus come down, and I want to have dinner at your house."** (Luke 19:5) He was hungry. Jesus loved to eat, what can I say? He just loved to hang out with people. You remember He came by the tax collector table, he saw Mathew and He said, **"Matthew, come."** (Matthew 9:9) And Matthew left everything, and took his pen, and Matthew then used his pen for the glory of God writing the Gospel of Matthew. You remember Peter was fishing, He said, **"Peter come here, I'm going to make you a fisher of man."** (Matthew 4:19) And so God is calling from different people. But He not only saves you, He not only knows you, but He is also calling you to do a work for His Kingdom.

And then I find in verse 4, He is also willing to lead me. In verse 4, **"And when He puts forth his own sheep, He goeth before them."** In other words, He

will never take you where He hasn't been. He's been tested; therefore, with Him you can be victorious. He went through Calvary, therefore, He will help you when it is time for you to die. There is not a place that He hasn't been, that He's willing to take you there, unless He's been there. Many people want to take you places they've never been. But He has been everyplace you could ever dream. So when you become discouraged, He's been there. When you become overwhelmed, He's been there. When He was being tried by Satan himself, when you have been tried, He has been there. And He will go before you, and He will never leave you. He will never forsake you. He will guide you. He will open the doors and He will do the work.

In verse 16, it declares, He engrafts me. **"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold."** So He is speaking to the nation of Israel. Now He is speaking to the Gentiles, me. He is saying, "I have Steven, and I want him, he is a gentile and I want to bring him in to one family. And there shall be one fold and one Shepherd."

But notice He also protects me. In John 10:11, **"I am the good shepherd: and the good shepherd (would you underline this please) giveth his life for His sheep."** In verse 11, **"He giveth His life for His sheep."** Then jump down to verse 15, **"As the Father knoweth Me, even so know I the Father: and (underline) I lay down My life for My sheep."** Then in verse 18, **"No man takes it from me, but (underline) I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again."** In other words, I love My sheep. I will lay My life down for My sheep. And that is the heart of redemption; that when we were alienated we have led everyone to his own way and we have gone astray. Jesus took the agony of Calvary and He died for my life. He laid His life down instead of God dealing with me and my sin. He laid His life down and destroyed the power of Satan that I might be able to live without guilt and shame. He destroyed the kingdom of darkness that I

might enjoy the Kingdom of Light. And not only that, but He has blessed me. In John 10:10, **"To give me a life more abundant"**, an abundant life. But the best of all is found in verse 28, **"And I gave them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."** And I have never seen this before, in verse 28, that my Father holds my hands and they will not pluck them out of His hands either. So that is pretty good security when the Father and Son is holding you together.

Now let me review, because there are just two other things I want to share with you this morning. Number one: He is a Good Shepherd. And the reason why He is a Good Shepherd, in contrast to the hirelings, is because number one: He knows you. He understands the way you are made. And He has offered you salvation, which you have taken. And you can now enter and you can go in and out and you can be blessed by the Lord. But He has also called you for something that He wants to do in and through your life and He called you by your name. Also He has led you and He will lead you in the future. He will guide and open the doors for you in your life. He will bring you into the family. Though you feel alienated, He will bring you into the family. And He is willing to die, to protect you from the wolves. He is willing to die, to protect you from the thieves. He is willing to lay His life down in order that you would be able to live. But He wants you to live abundantly. And He wants you to know that you are so secure, that you will never be able to be plucked out of the Father's hands, because you have Eternal Life. That's a Shepherd. That is a Shepherd above every shepherd I've ever heard, willing to lay his life down. And so He is the Good Shepherd.

Well, now turn with me to two other passages, and I won't wear you out with anymore. In Hebrews 13:20: not only is He the Good Shepherd because He is willing to, what? Die. But He is the Great Shepherd because He is willing, what? To live. He lives in heaven making intercession for you. And the book of

Hebrews is all about something better. And it declares in Hebrews 13 towards the very end of the Bible. If you are in Revelations you've gone too far, if you are in James you've gone too far, if you are in Timothy go right. In Hebrews 13:20 **"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, (and underline) that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect."** The words "*to make you perfect*" in the *Greek*, is the word that means: For a doctor to set the broken bones. For a fisherman it means to mend the nets. It means that God is able to put you back together, because He is the Great Shepherd. He is the Great Shepherd in the sense that He rose from the dead. He ascended to the Father. He is at the right hand of God making intercession for you. He told Peter, **"You are going to be tried but when you come through I want you to know I prayed for you Peter, and I want you to strengthen your brethren."** (Luke 22:31-32) So God has given you a promise; you are going to make it, and when you make it, you need to help others, because He is the Great Shepherd. It means that He is there interceding for you. He is the yesterday, today and tomorrow. He is present. He is here right now. He is in my heart. He is the Great Shepherd. And He is great, because of the blood of Jesus Christ. Notice it says Hebrews 20:13, **"...through the lord that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant."** So He went through the cross as a Good Shepherd, but when He rose from the dead He became the Great Shepherd, that powerful Shepherd. That one who is able to destroy every single enemy in your life. And you need to see Him not only as good, but you need to see Him as great. He is great in the sense of His Resurrection, great in the sense of His Ascension, great in the sense that He is in Heaven, that He beat the power of death.

But there is one more. One more thing I want you to turn with me to and that is to 1 Peter 5:4. 1 Peter 5:4, go left. 1 Peter 5:4: **"He is the good shepherd"** in John 10:10-11. **"He is the great shepherd"** in Hebrews 13:20. But in 1

Peter 5:4, **"He is the Chief Shepherd"**. He is the Chief Shepherd. Notice Peter declares: **"And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, ye will receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."** (1 Peter 5:4) Well let me tell you how it works. The past, He is the Good Shepherd. The present, He is the Great Shepherd. Concerning the future, He is the Chief Shepherd. And here the word means that He is coming back, and He is going to reward us for the things that we are doing, the way that we've taken care of the ministry. And Peter, as one who is a shepherd himself, is declaring that you are under shepherds, you are not the shepherds. He is the Chief Shepherd; you need to listen to Him. And what a conviction to my heart. "Steven, you need to understand that a good shepherd is willing to die for his sheep. Are you willing to die for these people?" "Well God, they fall asleep during my message, they don't listen to me. And you know they think they can do it better than me and what am I supposed to do?" "Are you willing to die for them?" "Well, if I really like them I might." "Well, then Steven you are not a shepherd." "OK." "Steven are you a great shepherd?" "Oh, what does that mean Lord?" "Will you stand between the dead and the living and proclaim the truth?" "Well, I don't want to get involved in their life, because you know they kill each other. You know these Christians here, you know, they get in relative fights and..." "Are you willing to be strong and stand on their behalf and help them?" Well, after they beat up each other, I might Lord. I don't know, I think so." "And Steven, you think you're a shepherd?" "Well, yes, I'm a shepherd." "I am the Chief Shepherd, are you doing what I told you to do?" "Ah, no." "Well Steven, we need to talk after the study today."

You see, a good shepherd, he's willing to die for the least of the sheep. A great shepherd is willing to stand and declare the truth, even if they are stoned. A chief shepherd is one who understands that he has authority, yet he is under authority. And the scripture I want to leave you with is one that I think will give you great hope. And I had to do this, because I had to leave it in Peter, because

if I went out in Peter, you'd probably shoot me. But 1 Peter 2:25, And I've waited all the service to share this one verse. Not only is He the Good Shepherd; not only is He the Great Shepherd; not only is He the Chief Shepherd; but lastly, He is the Bishop of your soul. In 1 Peter 2:25: **"For ye were as sheep going astray; (Oh yes Lord, we are wayward, we go astray but, the great conjunction) are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."**

You say. "Well Steven, how do I know that I'm a sheep?" "How do I know today that I'm a sheep?" Well, I think there's four very simple ways you can find out. It says in (John 10:27) "That sheep are sensitive, they hear His voice." And so the question I will leave you with is: Do you hear His voice? Are you sensitive to the voice of God? In John 10:27 **"My sheep they hear my voice..."** "Well, yes I do hear His voice." Well, then you are His sheep. If you are saying, "I don't hear His voice." Well then, you are probably a goat. "Well I don't want to be a goat." Well then you can be a dog. "Well I don't want to be a dog." Well I'll be a pig. "Well I don't want to be a pig." Well, you are either, a pig, a goat, a dog, or sheep. "Well how do I become a sheep?" Well you need to enter into the gate and then you become a sheep. "Well I'm a sheep, I hear His voice." Okay. Also in John 10:27, not only are they sensitive but sheep are obedient, they follow. In verse 27, they follow where He tells them to go. And so the first characteristic of a good sheep is that they hear the voice of the shepherd. The second characteristic of a great sheep is that they are obedient and they follow very close to the master. The third characteristic is found in John 10:28 they are confident, I have eternal life. Hey, boys and girls I'm going to heaven! Pastor Rob has his button in his office, called the rapture button. It is not plugged in or nothing. I wish it were. We tried to plug it in an electrical current but it doesn't work. We need to plug it into heaven and push that button and we are out of here. I'm ready to meet the Lord! Amen? "Oh, I don't know yet." Oh, maybe you are not a sheep. "Well, I'm a sheep." Well, if you are a

sheep you are confident; if you are confident you are going. I'm out of here, In Jesus Name! Take me right now! "I might be a goat, but I'm thinking about being a sheep real quick here." Eternal life, I have confidence. I have confidence in nothing else in my life, but this one thing I do know, I'm going to heaven. And the fourth characteristic, very simply is found in John 10:28, "I'm secure, no one will pluck me out of my Father's hand, and no one will pluck me out of my Savior's hand." And I'm double secure this morning. "Oh, I want to be a sheep." Well, then I need to hear His voice. I need to follow His ways. I need to walk with confidence, and I need to be absolutely secure. "Well, how can I have that?" "Enter through the gate of the Good Shepherd." (John 10:9)

**Closing prayer:**

Father we thank You. We thank You Lord, that You are the Great Shepherd. I am the good shepherd: willing to lay your life down for your friends. Lord, You are the Great Shepherd: willing to pray, standing by the throne of God interceding on our behalf. Peter declares that You are the Chief Shepherd, You are coming back. And all the shepherds will have to give an account. All the dads will have to give an account. Every one of us will have to give an account of our stewardship to You. And when we fall away, Lord You become the Shepherd and the Bishop of our soul. Lord, it is good to know that You are the overseer, and one who walks among us. And when you see a soul beginning to drift Lord, You keep us in Your hands. So, give us confidence.

And while our heads are bowed and our eyes are closed, maybe some of you have never come to know Jesus Christ. And maybe some of you this morning for the first time you realize that you need a Shepherd. A Good Shepherd, a Great Shepherd, a Chief Shepherd, one who will walk with you, and over, and with you. If you would like to ask the Lord to come into your heart, or to rededicate your life God knows who you are. All you need to do is enter in The Gate. Do you want to be a sheep? Now the goats, they don't want to enter in, and they

have no part in the Kingdom of God. You are saying. "Steve, I really want to be part of the Kingdom." Then you need to come through Jesus Christ, and hear His voice. Father we thank You and we praise You. In Jesus Name. Amen.