THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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**DATE: 9/2/2018 am**

**TEXT: John 10:1-16** (reading **vs. 11-16**)

**INTRODUCTION**

We are continuing our study in John’s Gospel

We are looking at how John portrays Jesus in different ways in each chapter

In Chapter 1 we see Him painted as the Word

In Chapter 2 we see Him painted as the Son of Man

In Chapter 3 we see Him painted as the Divine Teacher

In Chapter 4 as the Great Soul Winner

In Chapter 5 as the Great Physician

In Chapter 6 as the Bread of Life

In Chapter 7 as the Fountain of Living Water

In Chapter 8 as the Sympathetic Saviour

In Chapter 9 as the Light of the World

This morning, in Chapter 10, we will be looking at Him as -

**“THE GOOD SHEPHERD”**

**Ill.** Two men were called on, in a large classroom, to recite the 23rd Psalm. One was a trained orator. He repeated the psalm in a powerful way. When he finished, the audience cheered and even asked for an encore.

Then the other man, who was much older, repeated the same words – *“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want…”* But when he finished, no one in that large classroom made a sound. Instead, people sat in a deep mood of devotion and prayer. Then the first man, the orator, stood to his feet and said *“I have a confession to make,”* *“The difference between what you have just heard from my friend, and what you heard from me is this: I know the Psalm, my friend knows the Shepherd”*

Of the many images painted by the Apostle John in this Gospel, probably the most descriptive is that of Jesus as the Good Shepherd

For, like a shepherd, Jesus is concerned with the welfare and the care of His sheep

As Jesus delivered this sermon …

(on the heels of healing the blind man at the Temple)

He plainly Declares His Identity and clearly States His Purposes and Plans

In these verses, we see the heart of Jesus on display

Here, He reveals His great love for sinners, and His plan for dealing with their sin

As I bring the message this morning, I want you to ask yourself this question –

“*Do I really know the Shepherd*?”

If you don’t know Him, then I want you to know, this is a message that you need to hear

You are going to hear, first-hand, from the Bible itself, exactly what you need to do

My prayer for you is that if you do not know Jesus as your personal Saviour this morning …

… Then, today will be the day you do

For those of us who do know Him, we are going to hear how knowing the Shepherd can make our life more Glorifying to Him

These verses teach us that Jesus possesses certain Qualities that Qualify Him to be called the Good Shepherd

I would like to take our time this morning to look at this passage, and see for ourselves Why Jesus deserves this Title

I pray you will follow along with me as we walk through these verses and discover

**“Jesus, The Good Shepherd”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, I want you to see that Jesus Possessed …

**I. THE RIGHT “CREDENTIALS” – vs. 1-5**

**Credentials –** *are the*[*abilities*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/ability)*and*[*experience*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/experience)*that make someone*[*suitable*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/suitable)*for a* [*particular*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/particular)[*job*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/job)*or*[*activity*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/activity)*, or*[*proof*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/proof)*of someone's*[*abilities*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/ability)*and* [*experience*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/experience)

Let’s see how Jesus was Perfectly Suitable to be the Good Shepherd

There are 3 things here that show this to be true

**A. He ‘Came’ Accordingly’ – vs. 1-3 a**

Jesus uses the imagery of the sheepfold to illustrate His message

A Sheepfold was a large circular enclosure with a tall …

… wall and a single opening that served as an opening

Several flocks might be placed into a sheepfold

One of the shepherds would lie in the opening to serve as the door

Nothing could get in or out without having to go through the shepherd

Jesus is telling His audience a couple of things here:

First, that only those, who are up to no good, try to enter the sheepfold by another way besides the door

**v. 1 - *“He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber”***

Second, The Shepherd always comes in the right way!

**v. 2 – *“But He that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep”***

Jesus is saying that He is the Predicted Messiah

He is Israel’s Promised Shepherd – **Ps. 80:1** …

He has fulfilled God’s Word Perfectly

He has presented His Credentials to His people

Let me show you why / Notice the Proof

Some of the Prophecies were that …

**1.** The Messiah would be Born of a Virgin

**Isaiah 7:14 – *“Therefore the Lord Himself shall …***

***… give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel”***

**Matthew 1:21-23 – *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for He shall save his people from their sins” “Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,” “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us”***

**2.** He would be born in Bethlehem

**Micah 5:2 – *“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting”***

**Matthew 2:4-6 – *“And when he (Herod) had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born” “And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,” “And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel”***

**3.** He would be brought out of Egypt

**Hosea 11:1 – *“When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt”***

**Matthew 2:14, 15 – *“When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:” “And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was …***

***… spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son”***

**4.** His arrival would provoke the rage of the enemy

**Jeremiah 31:15 – *“Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not”***

**Matthew 2:16-18 – *“Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men” “Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,” “In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not”***

**Revelation 12:4 b, 5 –*“… and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born” “And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to His throne”***

**5.** He would come in the fulness of time

**Galatians 4:4 –*“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,”***

He was the right person, born in the right place, summoned from the right country, and attended by the right sign, and arriving at the right time

He possesses all the Credentials necessary to prove that He is the Good Shepherd! (The Promised Messiah)

**Isaiah 61:1,2 a –** ***“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;” “To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, …”***

In **Luke 4:18, 19, 21** we see Jesus claiming this verse

***“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,” “To preach the acceptable year of the Lord”***

***“And He began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears”***

When Jesus came with the right Credentials …

The Porter (**v. 3**) openly introduced Him to the nation and declared His identity

**John 1:29 – *“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”***

John the Baptist was that Porter

**He ‘Came Accordingly’**

**B. He ‘Calls Properly’ – vs. 3 b**

**1.** There may be several flocks sharing the same sheepfold

However, when the shepherd of the sheep walks up to the opening and calls his sheep,

They instantly recognize his voice and respond

They know his voice

Ill. A man in Australia was arrested and charged with stealing a sheep. But he claimed insistently that it was one of his own, that had been missing for days. When the case went to court, the judge was puzzled, not knowing what to do. At last, he asked that the stolen sheep be brought outside the courtroom. He then ordered the plaintiff to call the animal. The sheep made no response except to raise its head and look frightened. The judge then instructed the defendant to call the sheep. When the accused man began to make his distinctive call, the sheep bounded toward the door. It was obvious that it recognized the familiar voice of his master. *“His sheep knows him,”* said the judge. *“Case dismissed!”*

**2.** So it is with the lost soul

There are many voices which compete for our attention

But there is a special sound to the voice of the Lord

When He calls, everything changes

**John 6:44 – *“No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day”***

The lost sinners is dead until he is awakened by the Holy Spirit

**Ephesians 2:1 – *“And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”***

You see, the voice of the Good Shepherd is …

-- The only one that can awaken the dead heart

-- The only one that sounds right to a desperate soul

-- The only one that can give us hope

All other sounds are empty and frightening, when compared to the sweet call of Jesus

**He ‘Calls Properly’**

**C. He ‘Commands Perfectly’ – vs. 4, 5**

**v. 4 – *“And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him:”***

When the shepherd calls forth his sheep, he goes before them and they instinctively follow him

He doesn't have to drive them, that’s for goats

(Think about that!)

He just leads the sheep out and they follow close behind (What a truth!)

When a soul is genuinely saved by the Grace of God,

They will have a desire to follow the Good Shepherd!

When a person is saved and their heart is right with God,

They don’t have to be begged to come to church, to tithe, to share their faith, etc.

They have been called out by the Shepherd and have a burning Desire to follow Him

**II Corinthians 5:17 – *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”***

That desire is summed up in **I Cor. 10:31 -**

***“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, (we) do all to the glory of God”***

**JESUS HAS THE RIGHT “CREDENTIALS”**

Next, I want you to see that He Possesses …

**II. THE RIGHT “CHARACTER” – vs. 6-10**

In these verses, Jesus reveals His Identity as the Door

If you will remember, there was only one opening in the sheepfold

It was in this opening that the shepherd lay

Therefore, the shepherd Himself became the Door of the Sheep

Nothing could enter, or exit, without going through the shepherd

First, let’s look at …

**A. The Good Shepherd’s ‘Personality’ – vs. 6-8**

If anyone desires entrance into The Fold of God

There is only one Door

That Door is Jesus Himself!

**v. 7 – *“Then said Jesus unto them again, …***

***… Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep”***

He is the only way to God

**Ephesians 2:18 – *“For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father”***

**John 14:6 – *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me”***

**Acts 4:12 –** ***“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”***

This truth is made abundantly clear in **I John 5:12 -**

***“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life”***

Jesus is the only way to the Father

Any other way leads to Death and Destruction

**Matthew 7:13,14 – *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:” “Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it”***

Too many, this may seem narrow minded and out of step with our modern way of thinking

However, it is perfectly in line with what God has said in His Word

**I Timothy 2:5 – *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”***

**His ‘Personality’**

**B. The Good Shepherd’s ‘Performance’ – v. 9 a**

***“I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved,”***

Jesus plainly tells His listeners that He alone is the door into God's eternal salvation

He alone is able to Perform that which He as Promised

His Promise to those who enter, is that they will be saved

That is, they will be rescued from the wrath of God and will experience the fullness of God's perfect salvation

To be Saved means to be rescued from all harm and danger

When a sinner comes to Jesus and is Born Again …

They are forever delivered from the awesome wrath of Almighty God

**John 5:24 – *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life”***

**Romans 5:9 – *“Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him”***

It’s wonderful to be eternally saved and free from the fear of dying

I am grateful for the salvation that I have in Jesus!

**His ‘Performance’**

**C. The Good Shepherd’s ‘Promise’ – vs. 9 b, 10**

***“and shall go in and out, and find pasture” “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”***

The thief (the Devil) is a threat to the sheep

When the Devil enters the fold, his primary purpose is to use the sheep for his own personal gain

He doesn't care about their welfare

Jesus cares about the sheep and He Promises them a new and better life

**v. 10 - *“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”***

Everything changes when a person meets Jesus!

When we enter into a Relationship with Jesus, our life won’t remain the same

He gives us the ability to Live better, to Love better and to do something with our Lives that will Glorify God

Jesus makes the difference between a life that is lived for the devil and one that is lived for the Lord

**Ephesians 2:1-4 – *“And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;” “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:”***

***“Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others” “But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us,”***

**JESUS HAS THE RIGHT “CREDENTIALS” AND THE RIGHT “CHARACTER” TO BE THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

Lastly, I want you to see also that He Possesses …

**III. THE RIGHT “CONCERN” – vs. 11-16**

Jesus explains the difference between the Concerned shepherd and the Hireling

The Hireling is there only for the paycheck

When trouble comes, he runs away and leaves the sheep to be devoured by the wolves – **vs. 12, 13**

The Shepherd, on the other hand, owns the sheep and has a vested interested in their welfare – **v. 14**

Therefore, the Good Shepherd is willing to pay any price to protect the sheep, even if it means that he has to give His very life for them

**A. The Good Shepherd’s ‘Sacrifice’ – vs. 11-13**

**1.** The Proof in the Sacrifice

The Proof is seen in Jesus Not running away

But instead, He does everything in His power to save the Sheep

The Bible says that people are like wayward sheep,

**Isaiah 53:6 – *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;”***

This waywardness, or sin, that is in us has separated us from both our Fellowship and Relationship with God

**Isaiah 59:2 –** ***“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear”***

Worse than this, the sin of man has brought man under the wrath of God

**John 3:18, 36 – *“He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him”***

This condition will eventually culminate in every lost sinner being separated from God forever

**Romans 6:23 – *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”***

**2.** The Provision of the Sacrifice

However, Jesus did something to change that!

Because our sin as Separated us from God

Jesus came down from Heaven and was born in human flesh

Then, after a sinless life He died on the cross, …

… taking the place of every sinner who would put his/her faith in Him,

**II Corinthians 5:21 – *“For God hath made Jesus to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him”***

**II Corinthians 5:15 – *“And that Jesus died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again”***

When Jesus died on that cross, He literally became sin and was judged in our place

By this priceless sacrifice for the sheep, He deserves the title of Good Shepherd!

**His ‘Sacrifice’**

**B. The Good Shepherd’s ‘Sheep’ – v. 14**

***“I am the good shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine”***

Jesus speaks of The Bond that exists between the shepherd and his sheep

He knows them, and they know Him

The individual sheep in a flock all look alike to the untrained eye

However, a Good Shepherd, can tell them apart

How does the Good Shepherd know His sheep?

Often because of their Defects and Peculiar traits

He knows everything there is to know about us

**Matthew 10:29-31 – *“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father” “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered” “Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows”***

**Matthew 6:8 – *“Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him”***

-- He knows every strength and every weakness

-- He knows every joy and every burden

-- He knows every mountain and every valley

-- He knows every victory and every battle

And He stands ready to help us in our time of need,

**Hebrews 4:16 – *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”***

He is our Good Shepherd and He will look after us

**Psalm 23:1 – *“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want”***

**His ‘Sheep’**

Lastly …

**C. The Good Shepherd’s ‘Salvation’ – vs. 15,16**

Remember earlier, I said that there was Many Different Flocks of Sheep in the Sheepfold

Jesus makes it plain here, that there will be other sheep that will come along afterwards

These sheep can be assured of being saved just like those who were there to hear Jesus speak

You see, He came the first time to the nation of Israel

**John 1:11 - *“He came unto His own, …”***

But when they rejected Him

***“… and His own received Him not”***

He would then turn to the Gentiles

Therefore, anyone who needs salvation can rest assured that Jesus will provide that salvation when faith is placed in Him

**John 1:12 – *“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name:”***

When someone’s faith is placed in Jesus Christ, salvation is always the result

-- This salvation is complete

**Hebrews 7:25 – *“Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him”***

-- And it’s eternal

**vs. 28, 29 – *“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand” “My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand”***

The good news is this: Jesus died for every person in the world, including you and I

If you will come to Him right now and will place your trust in Him, He will save your soul

You see, the salvation that Jesus provides is open to all

He is still the Door and He is still the Good Shepherd

Like the shepherd of **Luke 15:4-7 – *“What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?” “And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing” “And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost” “I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance”***

He is still out on the mountains of sin searching for those who are lost and away from the fold

All who will come to Him in faith will be brought into the flock and will be saved

**Acts 16:31 – *“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,”***

**CONCLUSION**

There is no question that Jesus is the Good Shepherd

The only question that remains at this point is this:

*Do you know the Shepherd?*

-- How you answer that question determines where you can expect to spend eternity

-- Your answer to that question will make all the difference between Heaven and Hell

If you know the Shepherd, then you can rejoice in the fact that He is with you and that He will never leave you

If you do not know Him, then I invite you to come to Him right now

You do not have to … nor should you want … to wait

Delay is dangerous!

Come to Jesus today and He will save your soul

He will place you in the flock of God

He will save you from the wrath of God

You will be Born Again and have New Life

Will you come to Him?

**JESUS HAS:**

**THE RIGHT “CREDENTIALS”**

**THE RIGHT “CHARACTER”**

**THE RIGHT “CONCERN**

**TO BE THE GOOD SHEPHERD**