

Theme: Jesus is the Good Shepherd Who died and rose for His whole flock, that they might know and follow Him.

## I. Intro - Shepherd or butcher

- A. Story from friend - trip to Israel, shepherds
- B. Shepherds always lead the flock, never drive them
- C. Soon they see a man driving some sheep - why?
- D. He is not a shepherd - he is the butcher!
- E. We saw some about bad 'shepherds' last week
- F. Today: I AM the Good Shepherd

## II. The Good Shepherd - The Messiah

- A. Moses - God's flock needs a Shepherd to lead them  
Moses said to the Lord, <sup>16</sup> "May the Lord, the God of the spirits of all mankind, appoint a man over this community <sup>17</sup> to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the Lord's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd."  
Numbers 27:15–17
  - 1. People need a shepherd to lead them after Moses
  - 2. To go out and and come in, lead out & bring in  
I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. **He will come in and go out, and find pasture.**  
John 10:9
  - 3. Sheep without a shepherd destroyed  
Moses said to the Lord, <sup>16</sup> "May the Lord, the God of the spirits of all mankind, appoint a man over this community <sup>17</sup> to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, **so the Lord's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd.**" Numbers 27:15–17

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36

- 4. God appoints Joshua/Jesus as Shepherd  
So the Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand on him.... <sup>21</sup> At his command he and the entire community of the Israelites will go out, and at his command they will come in." Numbers 27:18,21
  - a. Joshua is the one who will shepherd the flock
  - b. He will lead the flock in and out
  - c. Jesus is the Greek form of the name Joshua!
- 5. Jesus is our greater Joshua, through whom we come in and go out, living in the full, deep blessing of God!
- 6. Moses, the Law, leaves us in the wilderness, but Yeshua and His Gospel bring us in to the land of God's blessing!
- B. The Messiah, the greater David, is the Good Shepherd  
I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup> I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken. Ezekiel 34:23–24
  - 1. Ezekiel 34 indicts false shepherds (see last week)
  - 2. David is the prototype good shepherd/king
  - 3. Messiah comes from David and rules on his throne
  - 4. When Jesus claims to be the Good Shepherd He is claiming to be the Davidic Messiah, the One Shepherd over the people of God

C. The Messiah Good Shepherd brings in His whole flock  
I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. (10:16)

1. Good Shepherd wont forget or lose a single sheep
2. This is mainly speaking of bringing in the Gentiles
3. A fulfillment of messianic prophecies in OT  
My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. Ezekiel 37:24

Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you. Zechariah 2:11

And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to serve him, to love the name of the Lord, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—<sup>7</sup>these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

<sup>8</sup> The Sovereign Lord declares— he who gathers the exiles of Israel: “I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.” Isaiah 56:6–8

4. There is no more Israel & Gentiles, no more old covenant. The new covenant has come and there is one Shepherd over one flock of God, the Church.
5. This is a certain reality - “I have” not “I will have” (v16)

6. We reach out with the Gospel confidently, for there will be those who hear, because they are His sheep and will come into the flock.
7. If you are here and have not responded - hear His voice and come to the Good Shepherd!

### III. Traits of the Good Shepherd

- A. The Good Shepherd lays his life down for the sheep  
I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:11
  1. Central fact - lays His life down for the sheep
    - a. It is the first point He makes in this saying (v11)
    - b. He states this again several times and ways  
**I lay down my life for the sheep..** <sup>17</sup> The reason my Father loves me is that **I lay down my life** - only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but **I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down** & authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father. John 10:15, 17–18
    - c. Contrast with the thief who kills and destroys  
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. <sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (10:10–11)
    - d. Contrast with hired hand who runs away from wolf  
I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. <sup>13</sup> The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. (v11–13)
      1. Hired hand - works for wages; that is his concern

2. OT did not require hired hand to risk wild animal attack (Exodus 22:13)
3. Good Shepherd loves the Sheep and protects them
4. No price is too great - rushes at the wolf
5. Like David who struck down lion & bear to save flock (1 Samuel 17:34-36)

2. Lays down his life - what does this mean?

- a. Lays down - present tense - continual sacrifice
- b. But the main meaning is death -
  1. Opposite of taking up life - resurrection
  2. Opposite of thief killing and destroying sheep
  3. The Good Shepherd lays down His life and dies, so that the Sheep might have eternal life

3. But the Good Shepherd will not stay dead - raised!

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—[only to take it up again](#). <sup>18</sup> [No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again](#). This command I received from my Father.” John 10:17–18

- a. Jesus not only laid down His life - He took it back up
- b. He chose to die - and to raise Himself back up!
- c. This is the proof of Christ's claims - resurrection
- d. If Jesus is raised - all else He says is true
- e. All who make claims but are still dead are thieves, not shepherds
- f. Thanks be to God - the Good Shepherd is still alive, and is still caring for His flock

B. Good Shepherd knows His Sheep & is known by them  
I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. John 10:14–15

1. The Shepherd knows His sheep and loves them - this is why He dies for them
2. The sheep also know & respond to the Shepherd  
The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.” John 10:3–5
  - a. Many flocks stayed together in one pen in town
  - b. Shepherd could call and His sheep all came to him
  - c. Will not come to another - even if in same clothes
  - d. In fact, they run away from the impostor
  - e. Modern example from Israel in the 1980's (NIVAC)
  - f. This is part of the new covenant - we know our God  
No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." Jeremiah 31:34
  - g. An intimate knowledge like the Father and the Son  
"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup> [just as the Father knows me and I know the Father](#)—and I lay down my life for the sheep. John 10:14–15

3. The Good Shepherd does not know you through another - He knows you personally, by name, and He loves and cares for you personally
  - a. Hard for us to grasp in this impersonal age - everything is so big, we are often anonymous
  - b. The same should be true of under-shepherds; they should know you by name - don't settle for less!
4. You do not walk with the Good Shepherd through another - you can hear and know His voice.

#### IV. Applying the Word of the Good Shepherd

- A. Do we see how much Christ loves us?
  1. He laid down His life for us!
  2. He gives Himself for us - He does not use us for His own ends like a thief
  3. He did not shrink back at even bearing the wrath of God and dying like some hireling - He loved us!
  4. Life can be very hard - but the Good Shepherd loves and cares for you as His own!
  5. Know that He was forsaken so that you would never be forsaken
- B. Do we hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and follow?
  1. The Shepherd has not stopped calling us
  2. Have you hear His voice and followed?
  3. Do you take time to listen to His call each day?
  4. God is calling out and speaking to you personally!
  5. Hear the Shepherds voice this week - and follow

#### C. Fed by the Good Shepherd at His Table (Psalm 23)

##### Jesus Is the Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18

March 6, 2016

Communion

Hebrews 13:20-21

Teaching keywords: name of God; salvation and deliverance; atonement; blessing; new covenant; evangelism and missions; Lent

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,<sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20–21

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.<sup>12</sup> The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.<sup>13</sup> The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.<sup>14</sup> “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—<sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.<sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.<sup>17</sup> The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.<sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.” John 10:11–18