

The “Good” Shepherd!

John 10:11-18
East Berlin Community Church
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Introduction

- Differences between a “poor”, “good”, and “outstanding” employee?
- Differences between a “poor”, “good”, and “outstanding” pastor?
 - 1 Peter 5:2-3-- *“Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly, nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”*
 - Acts 20:28-- *“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which He purchased with his own blood.”*
 - 2 Timothy 4:2-- *“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and teaching.”*
- Jesus as the “Great” or “Chief” Shepherd. In contrast to “thieves” and “Robbers”
 - Matthew 23:13-14-- *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites. For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men, for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive the greater condemnation.”*
 - Jeremiah 23:1-2-- *“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!’ says the LORD. Thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed my people; ‘You have scattered my flocks, driven them away and have not attended to them. Behold I will attend to you for the evil of your doings’, says the LORD.”*
- Jesus as the “Genuine” Shepherd—10:1-6
- Jesus as the “Gate” Shepherd-- 10:7-10
 - Matthew 7:13-14-- *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, an there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate, and difficult is the way that leads to life, and there are a few who find it.”*
 - John 10:10-- *“The thief does not come except to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come that they might have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*
- John 10:11-18-- *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling, and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know my sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father, and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”*

The “Good” Shepherd!! As the “Good” Shepherd,....

A. Jesus Christ gives His life for His sheep!

- John 10:11-13-- *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling, and does not care about the sheep.”*
1. Background
 - a. Shepherding was a hard, dangerous job
 - 1 Samuel 17:34-- *“Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck it and killed it.”*
 - b. To care for his flock, a shepherd would hire others to help
 - 1) Not responsible for loss—Exodus 22:12-13
 - Exodus 22:12-13-- *“If in fact, it is stolen from him, he shall make restitution to the owner of it. If it is torn to pieces by a beast, then he shall bring it as evidence, and he shall not make good what was torn.”*
 - 2) Did it for the pay

c. Contrast between “thieves, robbers, and hired men”

2. In contrast to the hireling, Jesus Christ lays down His life

a. As a substitutionary Sacrifice—10:11-13

1) Scriptural testimony—Christ died for us

- John 6:51-- *“I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”*
- Romans 5:6-- *“For when we were without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”*
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-- *“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.”*
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-15-- *“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: for if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10-- *“For God did not appoint us to wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.”*
- Titus 2:4-- *“Who gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous of good works”*
- 1 Peter 3:18-- *“For Christ also suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit”.*

2) Prophesied in the OT—Isaiah 53:4-6

- Isaiah 53:4-6-- *“Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”*

b. Voluntarily, out of love and obedience – 10:17-18

- John 10:17-18-- *“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”*
- 1) Jesus’ death not an accident or tragedy, but part of God’s plan from eternity to provide salvation for you and I.
 - Philippians 2:6-8-- , *“who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, taking the form of the bondservant and coming in the likeness of men, and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”*
 - John 19:11-- *“You could have no power at all against me unless it had been given to you from above.”*
 - 2) Jesus’ death not a suicide, but a sacrifice—John 15:13
 - John 15:13-- , *“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down his life for his friends.”*
 - 3) Jesus’ death was the means of life to those who believe

B. Jesus Christ sustains a love relationship with His sheep! 10:14-15

- John 10:14-15-- *“I am the good shepherd; and I know my sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father, and I lay down My life for the sheep.”*
1. Jesus Christ “knows” His sheep!
 - Amos 3:2-- *“You only have I known of all families of the earth”,*
 - Matthew 7:22-23-- *“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.”*
 2. We “know” Jesus Christ, proven by our obedience to Him
 - 2 Timothy 2:19b-- *“Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”*
 - John 14:23a-- *“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word!”*
 - John 15:10-- *“If you keep my commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My father’s commandments and abide in His love.”*

3. **The relationship which we have with Christ is intertwined with the relationship Jesus Christ has with His Father.**
 - John 14:21-- *"He who has My commandment and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And He who loves me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*
4. **God the Father loves you; Jesus Christ loves you; and You love the Father and Jesus Christ! He loves us; We obey Him!**
 - John 14:23-- *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep my word; and My Father will love him, and we will come and make Our home with him."*

C. **Jesus Christ unites His sheep into one flock—10:16**

- John 10:16-- *"And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock, and one shepherd."*
1. **One flock-One Shepherd in the Old Testament**
 - Ezekiel 34:23-- *"I will establish one shepherd over them and he shall feed them—My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant, David, a prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken."*
 - a. Most thought it referred to gathering scattered Israel
 - b. Hints that "flock" may include Gentiles—Isaiah 56:6-8
 - Isaiah 56:6-8-- *"Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants—everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath and holds fast My covenant—even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations. The LORD God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, 'Yet I will gather to Him others beside those who are gathered to Him.'"*
 - Isaiah 49:6-- *"Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be my salvation to the ends of the earth.'"*
 2. **One flock—One Shepherd revealed in the New**
 - a. **Salvation is for both Jew and Gentile—Romans 1:16**
 - Romans 1:16-- *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."*
 - b. **"Mystery of Christ"—Gentiles included—Ephesians 3:5-6**
 - Ephesians 3:5-6-- *"... which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel! "*
 - c. **Jesus makes the "two", one—a new flock Ephesians 2:11-16**
 - Ephesians 2:11-16-- *"Therefore, remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh... that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in this world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity."*