

Our Wonderful Shepherd

John 10:11-16

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 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. 13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. 15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 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. NKJV

A shepherd is not something that often associate with ourselves. We like to think of ourselves as independent, self-sufficient. But the truth is that we are all dependant upon God for everything we have. And as Christians we understand this even more fully.

In the OT Israel is often spoken of as a the flock, the people of God that He lead in the wilderness. The people of Jesus day were very familiar with this symbolism. And it displays a beautiful image of God's care and protection of His people.

I. We need a Shepherd

A. We were all like wondering sheep.

1. Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way;
2. The idea here is that we have gone astray from God and turned to our own sinful way.

B. Without a shepherd we are left to the wolves and lions who would destroy us.

1. There are so many, from without and from within that would destroy the people of God.
2. They would destroy their faith.
3. They would cause hard feelings and display anger and a self-serving attitude that destroys unity in the church.

C. We would be without shepherd we are lost not knowing which way is the right way to go.

1. The sheep were not smart, not good planners, that was the shepherds job.
2. And without the wisdom of the shepherd they would fail to find food and water.
3. They would be prey to thieves and predators.

II. Jesus is the Good Shepherd

- A. There are many shepherds but only one is good.
- B. He gives His life for the sheep.
 - 1. Isa 53:5 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. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
 - 2. Ro 3:25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
- C. As a sin atonement.
 - 1. Isa 53:10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.
 - 2. Ro 4:25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.
 - 3. 2Co 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- D. As a substitutionary sacrifice.
 - 1. When Abraham took his son Isaac to sacrifice him at God's command, God provided a substitutionary ram to die in Isaac's place.
 - 2. Gen 22:6-13 6 So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. 7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. 9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." 12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." 13 Then Abraham

lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. NKJV

III. The Shepherd has a relationship with the Sheep v-14

A. It is the most intimate relationship.

1. He knows the sheep as the Father knows Him. V-15

B. For His love for them He will lay down His life for them. V-15

1. 1Jn 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

2. Ro 5:6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.; 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

3. Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

IV. His desire is for one flock with one shepherd.

A. In the same way that the Trinity is a unity in the Godhead, so God wants there to be a unity among His sheep.

B. God is no respecter of persons.

1. Not race, or nationality make a difference to Him.

2. God is not concerned with the color of our skin or the language we speak.

3. God does not care about our position in society.

C. His desire is that there might be one fold and one Shepherd and one day there will be.

1. It will not be brought about by the weak plans of men but by the power of God.

2. But are you in the fold.

3. There are many who do not belong to the kingdom of God but are of the kingdom of darkness.

4. Which characterizes your life best?

5. It is only in admitting your own sin and weakness and clinging to the Good Shepherd that you can find entrance.

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