

## I AM: I Am The Good Shepherd John 10:11-18

### INTRODUCTION:

Good morning, Trinity! It is so good to see you today. My name is Chris Wigley, I'm one of the pastors here at Trinity. If you are a first-time guest, we are just thrilled to have you with us today. We'd love the opportunity to get to know you a little bit. You can provide information to us by texting the keyword, TBCMP, which stands for Trinity Baptist Church Mount Pleasant, to the number 94-000. When you send that keyword, a link will be sent back to you and that will take you to a form that is less than a minute to fill out. When you click "submit," it notifies me, and I always look forward to following up with our guests each week.

If text messaging isn't your thing, please swing by our information center located in the fellowship area, right out these doors in the lobby. We have a gift there for you just as a way of saying thank you for being our guest today. Again, we are thrilled you have chosen to worship with us today.

### GROW SUMMER STUDIES:

Before we jump in this morning, I want to talk about something that I am excited about this Summer. While the summer is filled with all kinds of ministry events like camps, missions trips, and family fun nights, we are going to launch something new that we are calling Grow: summer bible studies.

You should have found a flyer on your seat that looks like this. On that flyer is information about three different bible studies that you can sign up to participate in. The point of these studies is to provide biblical insights into three different areas of what we believe are vital needs for us as believers. First is a parenting study called "The Art of Parenting." This will help us parents shape guiding our kids and preparing them for life. The second study is an in-depth study through the book of Galatians. And the third study is what we are calling "Bible 101." In that study we will take a look at key core doctrines and what the Bible teaches.

I promise you, you will want to take advantage of these offerings. You see the dates there on the back of the flyer. 6-weeks this summer just might change your life and your family. Registration information is at the bottom of the flyer. You can scan that QR code or visit [trinitytx.org/grow](http://trinitytx.org/grow). Also feel free to contact

us if you have any questions. I am really looking forward to this summer and how The Lord will work in and through these studies.

### SERIES OVERVIEW:

Well, we are working our way through a teaching series where we are studying the 7 "I AM" statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John. These statements are teaching points that reveal who Jesus is and what He came to accomplish. We've examined that Jesus is the bread of life; that He is the source of true and fulfilling life. We learned that Jesus is the light of the world and that His followers no longer pursue darkness and that we are to be the light to the world. Last week we talked about Jesus being the door to truth. Today we turn to the fourth "I Am" statement. Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd." So, I want to invite you to grab your bibles and turn with me to the gospel of John, chapter 10. We are going to look at verses 11 through 18 this morning.

In this text, we are going to see 4 things that make Jesus the Good Shepherd. Affection, attention, availability, and authority. Those are the four characteristics we are going to study today and that will serve as our outline this morning.

Let's begin by looking at our passage of study. John 10:11-18. You follow along in your copy of God's Word. Jesus is speaking and says, *"<sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own 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>And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may 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 I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."*

### MESSAGE:

I think it is important for us to begin by talking about the word, "good." Jesus says, "I am the **good** shepherd," and He says it more than once. English does a poor job of capturing the full totality of what "good" means.

And we understand that, don't we? When someone asks us how are you doing, what do we say? Oh, I'm good. Now, how many of you have said that you are good, but you really aren't doing good?! That's all of us. We tend to use the word, "good" flippantly. But Jesus uses it intentionally. So, what does Jesus mean when He says the word, "good?"

Well, this word, in the original language, can also be translated as honorable, worthy, winsome, beautiful, genuine, and perfect.<sup>ii</sup> So, when Jesus says that He is the Good Shepherd, not only is He claiming to be God by tying it to I AM, but He is claiming to be the perfect shepherd for us. Jesus is the greatest shepherd.

Knowing the true meaning behind the word "good" helps us understand the power of this passage. Many times, we tend to come to this passage and look at it from the perspective that we are sheep, sheep are not smart animals, so we need a shepherd. Now, while that is true, that's not the main idea behind this text. The heart behind this passage is that Jesus is good, that is, He is perfect and worthy, therefore, we should want to follow Him. It's not about the foolishness of the sheep, but the faithfulness of the shepherd.<sup>iii</sup>

Another grammatical note that is worthy of our consideration this morning is the literal translation from the original language. Literally translated it reads, "I am the shepherd, the good one."<sup>iv</sup> Reading it this way shows the emphasis of the goodness of Jesus. He is so good that He is in a category of His own. In other words, there is nothing that can compare to His goodness.

So, what is it that makes Jesus so good? This is where the 4 characteristics that I mentioned earlier come into play. So, let's examine what makes Jesus the Good Shepherd. First, ...

### 1) Affection.

Perhaps the greatest characteristic that draws us to Jesus is the love that He demonstrates for us. In verse 11 Jesus says, "***11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.***" Jesus' greatest demonstration of love lies in His willingness to lay down His life for us. Think about the magnitude of Jesus' sacrifice for just a moment.

In Jesus' day, shepherding was reserved for the lowly. It was a 24/7 kind of a job. 365 days a year. It was not a desirable job.

Not only was being a shepherd undesirable, but it was extremely hazardous. It was a dangerous profession. One of the Bible's most famous shepherds was King David. Remember, before he became king, he was the runt of his family performing the worst job in the family, he was little shepherd boy David.

One day, when David was about to take on Goliath, king Saul wanted to know how little ole David could have the courage to take on a giant. David said in 1 Samuel 17:34-36, "***34 Your servant [talking about himself] used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. 36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.***" Lion and bears? That's pretty dangerous, wouldn't you say.

So shepherding is not desirable, and it is extremely dangerous, yet Jesus says, "I've come to be the best shepherd." That's love. Jesus, Almighty God of the Universe, left the glory of Heaven to come and do the job of a shepherd. That's sacrifice. That's love. That's demonstrating His great affection for you and me.

We haven't even talked about Jesus being our atoning sacrifice. Romans 5:8 says, "***8 but God shows his love for us [His affection toward us] in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***" He quite literally laid down His life for us. He gave up His life, on the cross, that we might have life. That's love. That's sacrifice.

And that's what makes Jesus so good. His affection toward us. Secondly, ...

### 2) Attention.

In addition to the affection that God shows toward us, Jesus also gives His attention. That is to say that The Good Shepherd truly cares for His sheep. Jesus cares for us like no other. Look at what Jesus says, verses 12-15.

***12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.***

If there is one thing that sheep need, it's devoted care.<sup>v</sup> Jesus provides that care. And He proves His unmatched care for His people by comparing His love and attention to other. By the way, when you read the Bible, always pay attention to the comparisons. Jesus says He is different from two things, a hired hand and a wolf. Let's talk about those two for just a moment.

A hired hand is a person that works for the shepherd. But at the end of the day, a hired hand is only performing his job for the pay. In other words, a hired hand's heart is not in it for the sheep.<sup>vi</sup> As a result, there is a limitation to his willingness to care for the sheep. When the enemy comes, the hired hand bolts. He says, "I'm not putting my life on the line for what is not mine." If a better opportunity comes along, he will bounce and jump at that opportunity. The hired hand's heart is not for the sheep but for the benefit he receives. The hired hand doesn't have an owner mentality.

We see the difference in this type of mentality in our day and time, don't we? You look at things a lot different when you are an owner of a company than when you're an employee. The owner cares a lot more because more is at stake for the owner.

Jesus says, I know **MY** sheep. Jesus differs from the hired hand because He is an owner. As a result, the care that Jesus provides is on a completely different plane than anyone else. No one will love you like Jesus loves you. No one will care for you more than Jesus. No one will defend you more than Jesus. Why? He's the owner. If you are in Christ, you are His sheep. As a result, He is willing to defend against whatever would come your way. He's not like the hired hand.

Jesus then compares Himself to the wolf. Wolves are the most common predator of livestock. They are ferocious beasts. Their strategy is to isolate a sheep. They want to get one of the sheep away from the flock, away from the Shepherd. At that point they go in for the kill.<sup>vii</sup>

We, too, have an enemy. The bible says that the Devil is like a roaring lion seek whom he can devour. Satan would like to isolate you from the flock. To move you away from other believers and from accountability and then move in for the kill.

But Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He doesn't run from the devil. Instead, He goes toe to toe with the devil. On the cross, Jesus defeated sin, death, and the

grave. But ultimately, He won the victory for us. Jesus is our Good Shepherd that defends us against the enemy's schemes.

What makes Jesus the Good Shepherd? His affection and His attention. Thirdly, ...

### 3) Availability.

Jesus, The Good Shepherd, makes Himself available to all. Look at verse 16. ***16And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.***

Remember the audience that Jesus is talking to here are the Pharisees, the religious leaders of the day. He is talking to a Jewish audience. So, when Jesus says that He has sheep that are not of this fold, he is talking about believers that are not Jewish. In other words, He's saying that salvation will not only be for the Jews, but for everyone who places faith in Jesus. Salvation is available to everyone.

And what's more, Jesus says that all the sheep of the different folds will all be together under the one Good Shepherd. Revelation 7:9 gives us an awesome picture of what this means. John records his vision of heaven and says, ***9After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"***

What makes Jesus the Good Shepherd is His availability to anyone and everyone. There is not one person on earth that is outside the invitation of salvation in Jesus. John 3:16, ***16For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*** Isn't that awesome?!

You know, I've heard people say that Christianity is so narrow minded and exclusive of others. But that's not true! Jesus makes Himself available to everyone. That sounds inclusive to me. Amen?

So, The Good Shepherd is good because of His affection, His attention, and His availability. Finally, His...

#### 4) Authority.

Jesus is good because of His authority. Verses 17 and 18. *17For this reason the Father loves me, because **I lay down my life that I may take it up again.** 18**No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.***

Jesus is obviously talking about his death and resurrection here. Laying down His life and taking it up again. This is good for a couple reasons.

First, Jesus' death was voluntary. In other words, Jesus' death on the cross was The Plan from the beginning. In verse 18 Jesus said, "No one takes it from me." One commentator I read this week said it this way, "Jesus is not a victim of human conspiracies. He was not a martyr whose life was ended as a tragedy. He obediently participates in the plan of God... The sacrificial act of Jesus pointed to the saving work of God, not the attempt of Caiaphas and Pilate to end his life."<sup>viii</sup>

Jesus willingly went to the cross for you. Jesus willingly laid down His life for me. He willingly died in our place, taking our sin and shame, and dealt with it once and for all. That's the authority of the Good Shepherd. Jesus' authority means that His death was voluntary.

Secondly, Jesus' authority means that He lives for us today. Not only did Jesus die, but He lives. Scripture teaches that Jesus didn't die another death. Instead, He ascended into Heaven where He is now seated at the right hand of the Father. But even though He is ascended, and He is seated, His ministry continues. Hebrews chapter 7 tells us about how Jesus actively works on our behalf; today. Hebrews 7:24 and 25 says, *"24but he [being Jesus] **holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.** 25Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since **he always lives** [to do what?] **to make intercession for them.**"* Jesus laid down His life as atonement for our sins, but He took it up for our victory. Now, He intercedes for those who have placed their faith and trust in Him.

What makes The Shepherd so good? Not only did Jesus die, but He lives. And He is with us always. He shows His affection toward us, He provides care for us, He is available to us, and He has authority over us.

#### CONCLUSION:

*1The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Is Jesus your Good Shepherd? Have you trusted Jesus as Lord? If you have not or if you are unsure about that, the elders of our church will be here at the front ready to visit with you. We would love nothing more than to visit with you about what it means to make Jesus Lord this morning.

Maybe you are here this morning, and you are carrying a burden. Whatever it is it is weighing heavy on you. The Good Shepherd stands ready to lead you beside still waters. Jesus desires to work in and through whatever it is that you are walking through.

This is a time of response. I trust The Good Shepherd is leading you, even in this moment. We are here ready to receive you, willing to pray with you and over you, and we would love to visit with you about trusting Jesus as Lord.

I'm going to pray. And let's sing and respond. [PRAY]

## ENDNOTES

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- <sup>i</sup> Works consulted in preparation for this message: John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: John 1-11*, Moody Press: Chicago, 2006; Gary M. Burge, *The NIV Application Commentary: John*, Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2000; Lloyd J. Ogilvie, *The Communicator's Commentary: John*, Word Books: Waco, 1985; Nate Hilgenkamp, "I AM: The Good Shepherd," sermon preached at Harris Creek Baptist Church, Waco, TX, March 19, 2023, accessed online: <https://www.harris creek.org/sermons?sapurl=LytmYzAwL2xiL21pLyszOXhmcm0yP2VtYmVkPXRYdWUJmcmVjZW50Um91dGU9YXBwLndiYi1hcHAubGlicmFyeS5saXN0JnJlY2VudFJvdXRlU2x1Zz0lMkZjN3am tj>; Esteban Shedd, "The 'I AM' Statements of Jesus Course," published by The Gospel Coalition; accessed online: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/the-i-am-statements-of-jesus/#course-introduction>; Michael Youssef, "There is an I in I Am: The Good Shepherd," sermon preached at The Apostle's Church, April 27, 2014, accessed online: <https://www.ltw.org/watch/teaching/series/there-is-an-i-in-the-i-am/part-4>; Matt Chandler, "I AM: The Good Shepherd," sermon preached at The Village Church, February 28, 2016, accessed online: <https://www.thevillagechurch.net/resources/sermons/the-good-shepherd>; Skip Heitzig, "The Good Shepherd (and a bunch of happy sheep!)," sermon preached at Calvary Albuquerque, July 25, 2010, accessed online: <https://calvarynm.church/connectwithskip/teachings/#/series/85/sermon/1205>.
- <sup>ii</sup> Strong's Concordance, 2570.
- <sup>iii</sup> Quip taken from Nate Hilgenkamp.
- <sup>iv</sup> Pointed out by Skip Heitzig.
- <sup>v</sup> Phrasing borrowed from Jack Graham, "Finding Restoration in the Good Shepherd," article published by The Prestonwood Network, published October 1, 2019, accessed online: <http://prestonwoodnetwork.org/finding-restoration-in-the-good-shepherd>.
- <sup>vi</sup> Adapted from Michael Youssef.
- <sup>vii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>viii</sup> Gary M. Burge, *The NIV Application Commentary: John*, Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2000, pages 292-293.