

**“I am the  
good shepherd.”**

**John 10:1-21**

**July 28, 2019**

**“I am the good shepherd.”**

**Main idea:**

**Jesus loves His sheep**

# **“I am the good shepherd.”**

## **John 10:1-6**

**1** “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. **2** The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

**4** When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, **5** But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.” **6** Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

**“I am the good shepherd.”**

**“The shepherd know his sheep by name, and the sheep readily recognize the voice of the shepherd and respond by following him. This is a graphic representation of the gracious, effective purpose of God, who has marked some people as His own in the midst of fallen humanity.”**

**Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible**

**“I am the good shepherd.”**

**“Elective grace is also effective grace. God who knows His sheep makes Himself known to them in such a way that they will respond. He does not force them to follow Him against their will but makes them willing and happy to do so.”**

**Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible**

**“I am the good shepherd.”**

**John 10:7-10**

**7** Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. **8** All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.

**9** I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

**“I am the good shepherd.”**

**“ Here [v.9] is the guarantee that salvation is always granted to those who truly trust in Christ. These only are saved and Christ is necessary and sufficient for salvation.”**

**Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible**

**“I am the good shepherd.”**

**“God’s ultimate purpose is to never impoverish His own, but to enrich them and extend to them infinite and everlasting blessedness.”**

**Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible**

**“I am the good shepherd.”**

**John 10:11-13**

**11** “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12** The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own 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. **13** The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

**“I am the good shepherd.”**

**Ezekiel 34:31**

**31 You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, and I am your God, declares the Sovereign LORD.’ ”**

**“I am the good shepherd.”**

**“Christ’s shepherding necessitated a sacrificial activity in which death insured. He did more than risk His life, He gave it, enduring death as a substitute for guilty sinners. This is intimated in the name “The Lamb of God” by John the Baptist and expressed in other statements by Jesus Himself.”**

**Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible**

**“I am the good shepherd.”**

**John 10:14-18**

**14** “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — **15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** 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.

**17** The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life — only to 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 authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

**“I am the good shepherd.”**

**“Scripture speaks of God as having chosen for salvation a great number from the fallen human race and as having sent Christ into the world to save them. Christ is regularly said to have died for particular groups or persons,**

**with the clear implication that His death fully secured their salvation. Facing His suffering on the cross, Jesus prayed only for those whom the Father had given Him, not for the “world.”**

**Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible**

**“I am the good shepherd.”**

**John 10:19-21**

**19** The Jews who heard these words were again divided. **20** Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?” **21** But others said, “These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

**“I am the good shepherd.”**

**“The Jews once again had a mixed reaction to Jesus’ words. While some charged Him with demon possession, others concluded His works and words were a demonstration of God’s sanction upon Him.”**

**MacArthur NIV 2011 Study Bible**

# Life Applications

**Since Jesus:**

- **Gathers His sheep**
- **Guards His sheep**
- **Gave His life for His sheep**

**Follow Jesus**

# Final Thoughts

**“Many, if not most, human leaders lead out of self-interest. They may project concern for those they lead, but when push comes to shove, it becomes clear that they only use others to accomplish their own ends.”**

**Tragically, this was the case with Israel's leaders for much of that nation's history. Even in Jesus' day the Jewish religious leaders resembled "thieves and robbers" more than a "good shepherd."**

**Zondervan Illustrated Bible  
Background Commentary**

# Final Thoughts

## Psalm 23

**1** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. **2** He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still wates. **3** He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**4** Even 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. **5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**6** Surely goodness and  
mercy shall follow me all the  
days of my life, and I  
shall dwell in the house of the  
**LORD** forever.