

I Am the Good Shepherd

John 10:7-18 || Pastor Alex Watlington || 12 July 2020

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: Do you have any stories of great sacrifice in your life where someone gave a lot of themselves for you?

Worship: Hebrews 14:20-21. (*Read aloud 3 times, reflect and listen for God's invitation to you.*)

Sermon Summary for John 10:7-18

"I am the Good Shepherd." This statement uniquely tells us who Jesus will be for His people and offers insight into God's care: **The Clarity of His Care** – As much as we culturally and personally would like to deny it, every one of us is being cared for by somebody else. It's true; we're impressionable beings. We actually require such care. The issue is whether we seek this affirmation from the world (those Jesus calls "thieves and robbers") or from the One who truly cares for us. Who is shaping and influencing us? How can we discern this and not be deceived?

- > **The Message.** Any message where the Gospel is not the center of the Christian Life is false. To make anything more important than Jesus is to miss the mark – even if the focus is on good things. Therefore, we have a responsibility to be clear about what it means for the True Shepherd to be king of His church.
- > **The Fruit.** Versions of the Christian message where Jesus is peripheral will ultimately destroy us, stealing our assurance, killing our freedom, and robbing us of a joyful Christian life. But, if the message is first about Jesus, what He has done, and His sufficiency... we will find unbelievable assurance, freedom and contentment, allowing us to become deeply loving people who *know* we are truly loved.
- > **The Motivation.** For those who don't put Jesus first, their reasons are ultimately for themselves. But when Jesus cares for us, it is for our own sake. The True Shepherd seeks to protect us, no matter the cost. And true care will always cost the one offering it more than it will cost those who receive it.

The Heart of Christ's Care is that He is a good shepherd, willing to lay down His life for His sheep. He values our salvation above His own life. If we could only grasp how completely God cares for us! And what a delight this is to our Father, because the sacrifice of the Shepherd brought forth the greatest of gifts: it returned the sheep to the Father. It unites Heaven and earth.

The Intimacy of His Care – Jesus' care for us is deeply personal; He knows us with the depth He shares with His Father. Meaning the sacrifice of the cross was deeply personal for Him; there's nothing abstract about the Shepherd laying down His life for His sheep. He knew wholly what His sacrifice meant and exactly whom it was for. He prizes us – exactly and intimately as each of us are – with such completeness. There is no love greater than this.

Discussion Questions (*It's better to wrestle deeply with a few good questions than to gloss over many.*)

- What did you learn about how Jesus is your Good Shepherd in this passage or sermon?
 - How well does the Good Shepherd know His sheep? How well do you know Him?
 - A sign that Jesus is our Shepherd is that we listen to His voice and follow where He leads. What "thieves, robbers, and otherway-ers" might we tend to listen to and what do they steal from us?
 - How can we be better listeners to our Shepherd? How can we help one another to do this?
 - Our salvation is dearer to Jesus than His own life...it is sheep He lays His life down for.
Compare this statement to John 10:9, 17-18.
 - What personal and specific applications can you make from this discussion of our Good Shepherd?
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Prayer: Please see the weekly prayer guide. You can click [Here](#).

Engage & Experience: At the end of each day this week, ask yourself these questions: When was I aware of Jesus' shepherding presence today? What other voices did I tend to follow today? Journal your thoughts.