



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Psalms Sermon Series

Supports Session 11: God's Care

Sermon Title: "The Good Shepherd" (John 10:11–18)

Connection to Session 11

In Psalm 23, David expresses his intimate relationship with God, who is His shepherd through life. God's care for him is evident. In John 10, Jesus uses the same imagery of the shepherd to describe His watchful care over those who belong to Him. The Jewish audience would have undoubtedly made the connection between Psalm 23 and various other Old Testament texts that refer to God as their Shepherd.

Introduction/Opening

Leading other people is a difficult task. Much of leadership depends on the character of the one who is the leader. One could be the most knowledgeable person in their field, but as the saying goes, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." This is a basic truth of leading others. If the leader does not exhibit care and knowledge of his followers, they are unlikely to follow for long. When Jesus labels himself as the Good Shepherd in John 10:11, He demonstrates how He is perfect leader of His people.

Outline

1. **Jesus** is the Good Shepherd.
 - a. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus made several "I am" statements. With each one, Jesus equated Himself with God, who revealed Himself as "I AM" in Exodus 3:14. Jesus was making a claim of divinity.
 - b. Jesus contrasted Himself first with others He labeled as thieves and robbers (John 10:8,10). The thieves are those who are false teachers and prophets. They attempted to enter the sheepfold to influence the sheep, but the true sheep did not listen to them. The New Testament warns believers of false teachers in many places. Paul told Timothy to preach the Word because people would want to listen to false teachers who told them what they wanted to hear (2 Tim. 4:3-4). On the other hand, the true sheep listen to Jesus (John 10:16).
 - c. As followers of Jesus, we learn to listen to His voice by reading the Scriptures. According to the Great Commission, we are meant to learn all that Jesus commanded (Matt. 28:19-20). Thankfully, we have the Holy Spirit to remind us of all that Jesus said and to teach us all things (John 14:26).
 - d. Then, Jesus contrasted Himself with hired hands (John 10:12-13). These workers are mere employees who hold a position but do not have any stock in

the sheep themselves. When a threat comes, they run (John 10:12). They are primarily in it for the pay. Jesus, unlike these hired hands, owns the sheep and cares deeply about their welfare. Jesus leads His sheep through every dark valley (Ps. 23:4).

- e. When the hard times come, we often learn that we cannot rely wholly on others for help. Whether it is a question of their ability or character, others often can't or won't care for us. While others may leave us when we face a variety of threats, we can rest assured that Jesus never leaves us nor forsakes us (Heb. 13:5).

2. Jesus is the **Good Shepherd**.

- a. Jesus primarily demonstrated His goodness as our Shepherd in His willingness to lay His life down for His sheep (John 10:11). Unlike others, Jesus put Himself in the way of danger so that His sheep could enjoy security. When He spoke of His impending betrayal and crucifixion, Jesus wanted to make sure we knew that no one took his life, as if He was unwilling, but that He laid his own life down to save us (John 10:18).
- b. Jesus demonstrated His goodness in what He gave. Jesus is the Good Shepherd because He provided everything we need for salvation through His death and resurrection. We like helpless sheep, gone astray, and yet God laid our sin on Jesus so that we could be saved (Isa. 53:6).

3. Jesus is the Good **Shepherd**.

- a. Shepherds, often compared with lowly classes of society, were some of the first to hear the news of Jesus's birth. King David began his career as a shepherd, as the youngest of his family, and he protected his sheep from lions and bears (1 Sam. 17:34-36). Jesus protects us from far more than lions and bears; He protects us from the power of sin and the sting of death (1 Cor. 15:56).
- b. As the Shepherd, Jesus leads us with His voice and continually calls His own from the world who belong to Him (John 10:16). How does He call them? Jesus calls His own to Him through the preaching of the gospel (Rom. 10:14-17) and the mission of the church.

Conclusion

The test of whether or not a sheep belongs to Jesus is whether or not they listen to His voice. We are all responsible for how we respond to the voice of Jesus. Do we know Jesus and hear His voice? Will we follow His voice when we hear it in Scripture? If we do, we can know we belong to Him.

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