



The Good Shepherd

February 16, 2020

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:27

So far in our study of various portraits of Christ we've seen Him as the Second Adam, Prophet, Priest, King, the Passover Lamb and the Bronze Serpent lifted up in the wilderness. This week we are reminded that the Lord is our Good Shepherd.

Shepherds and sheep were familiar concepts in the ancient world, but in our industrialized world, most people have never met a shepherd. So, when we hear God portrayed as a shepherd, we don't always appreciate what is being said. Let's dig into God's Word to see how *He* views a good shepherd.

[Q] Read Ezekiel 34:11–16. List what the Lord, as a good shepherd, says He will do:

[Q] Read Psalm 23 and then personalize it by filling in your name in the blank spaces below.

Psalm 23

The Lord is _____'s shepherd,

I shall not want.

He makes _____ lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside still waters, he restores _____'s soul.

He leads _____ in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

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.

You prepare a table before _____ in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint _____'s head with oil;

My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow _____

All the days of my life, And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Our natural tendency is to look to ourselves or other people to be our shepherd, to protect us, provide for us and meet our needs - but they can fail, mislead, and disappoint us.

[Q] Who do you tend to look to for "shepherding" in your life?

[Q] Read John 10:1-15. On the right side of the page, list the qualities of the good shepherd.

¹“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.

⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹²He 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. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

[Q] Have you seen how your Shepherd Jesus has acted on your behalf in these ways? How so?

[Q] How does this study add to your understanding of who Jesus is and what He came to do? How does it impact your love for Him?

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3

Pray.
