



# Calvary of Albuquerque

What's So Great About the Good Shepherd? - John 10:11-21

From the Series, Believe:879

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## MESSAGE SUMMARY

"What's so great about being a Christian?" some people ask. The answer lies in the kind of care, provision, and protection we get from Jesus Christ, our Shepherd. Have you ever stopped to make a list of the benefits that are yours as a follower of Christ? Consider this short list of advantages that you, as a child of God, have. When was the last time you thanked Him for being your Shepherd? This would be a great week to do that!

## OUTLINE

- I. He's Great Because He Sacrifices for His Sheep (vv. 11-15)
- II. He's Great Because He Knows His Sheep (vv. 14-15)
- III. He's Great Because He Unites His Sheep (v. 16)
- IV. He's Great Because He Lives for His Sheep (vv. 17-18)



## More Things for Sheep to Chew On:

1. What impresses you most about the fact that Jesus knows you? Why?
2. How can you tell when it's Jesus who is calling you and not someone else?
3. Which of the above "sheep benefits" comforts you the most? What emotions do you feel about what Jesus said here?

## DETAILED NOTES

You can't please everyone. Jesus didn't seem to care about appeasing people's ideas about how He should be or act. He said what He said; He is who He is. What people thought about Him determined their own eternal destiny, not His. Jesus seemed only to care about what His Father in heaven thought about Him and how to best care for His sheep.

Shepherd's were common; everyone understood the analogy. Many of their heroes had been shepherds: Moses, David, Jacob and his sons, and the prophet Amos. Jesus says he is the Good Shepherd. English doesn't capture the force and intensity of the original statement. Greek John 10:11: Ἐγώ εἰμι ὁ ποιμὴν ὁ καλός. Literally translated: I am the Shepherd, the Good (one). The object before the modifier, the article before the adjective intensifies the meaning. It means He is a Shepherd in a class of His own. No one can compare or compete with Him: the supreme, the greatest Shepherd.

The fourth of the seven great "I Am" statements, this is the most popular and the best-loved. It resonates with our core. God cares that much, like the tender care of the shepherd for his sheep. The most popular representation of Jesus for the early Christians was this motif, the Good Shepherd.

- I. He's Great Because He Sacrifices for His Sheep (vv. 11-15)
  - A. Shepherding is Dangerous
    1. Lead sheep from the protected environment of the corral to the vulnerable environment of the countryside
    2. David killed bear and lion protecting sheep-1 Samuel 17:34-35
    3. 224,200 sheep (worth \$18.3 million) killed by predators in 2004 according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service
    4. "I have listened with intense interest to their graphic descriptions of downright and desperate fights with savage beasts. And when the thief and the robber come, and they do come, the faithful shepherd is often to put his life in his hand to defend the flock. I have known more than one case where the shepherd literally had to lay it down in the contest. One a poor faithful fellow ... instead of fleeing actually fought three Bedouin robbers until he was hacked to pieces himself and he died among the sheep he was defending." *The Land and the Book*, by William McClure Thomson
  - B. Jesus gave His life
    1. Not an occupational hazard
    2. He lay it down Himself (vv. 11, 15, 17, 18)
      - a. His death was voluntary, part of the plan - Revelation 13:8, Acts 2:23
      - b. His death was substitutionary
        - i. Not for His own sin (He had none)
        - ii. For the sin of the sheep - v. 15 (gr. ὑπὲρ [upper]- for, on behalf of, in the place of, as a substitution

for)-Isaiah 53:6

- II. He's Great Because He Knows His Sheep (vv. 14-15)
  - A. Knows our differences (I don't have to be like anyone else)
  - B. Comfort; knows all about you and loves you anyway (gr. Γινώσκω [ginōskō]- profound, affectionate knowledge)-Psalm 139:1-4
  - C. Complete; as the Father knows Christ
  - D. He knows us perfectly; we know Him barely- 2 Peter 3:18;
    - 1. Our knowledge of Him is growing
    - 2. Our heart's cry to know him-Philippians 3:10
    - 3. We will know Him fully in our resurrected body when face to face-1 Corinthians 13:12
  - E. If Jesus is your Shepherd, don't accept substitutes (mentor, pastor)
- III. He's Great Because He Unites His Sheep (v. 16)
  - A. Expands the flock
    - 1. Not just Jews
    - 2. Wants all people to come in -Isaiah 56:8
  - B. The Pharisees looked down on the gentiles; Peter-Acts 10:9-28
  - C. Jesus blended Jew and Gentile together in His church -John 3:16; one flock, one Shepherd
  - D. View unbelievers as potential sheep
- IV. He's Great Because He Lives for His Sheep (vv. 17-18)
  - A. Takes His life again (resurrection)
    - 1. Messiahship
    - 2. Deity
  - B. He will never leave us-Matthew 28:20
  - C. Interceding on our behalf in heaven-Hebrews 7:25

Sheep are utterly helpless; when cast cannot right themselves, eat anything (poison), helpless when attacked; they need a shepherd to rescue them.

Greek terms: Ἐγώ εἰμι ὁ ποιμὴν ὁ καλός. Literally translated: I am the Shepherd, the Good (one); Ὑπὲρ [upper]- for, on behalf of, in the place of, as a substitution for; Γινώσκω [ginōskō]- profound, affectionate knowledge

Publications referenced: *The Land and the Book*, by William McClure Thomson

Cross references: 1 Samuel 17:34-35; Psalm 139:1-4; Isaiah 53:6; Isaiah 56:8; Matthew 28:20; John 3:16; Acts 2:23; Acts 10:9-28; 1 Corinthians 13:12; Philippians 3:10; Hebrews 7:25; 2 Peter 3:18; Revelation 13:8;