

Jn. 10:11 **I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. ...**

15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and **I lay down my life for the sheep.**

Today is commonly called “Palm Sunday.” Traditionally, *Palm Sunday* was the beginning of the Passion Week, and it represented the *Triumphal Entry* of the Messiah entering into Jerusalem.

Jn. 12:12 On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

13 **Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

❖ Believers will celebrate the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, in the future:

Rev. 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, **stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;**

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, **Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.**

- ❖ The connection with these passages is tied together with the text in Jn. 10:10, 15. Without the Lord Jesus Christ being the *Good Shepherd* dying for His sheep, there will be no celebration of Him as the Messiah.
- ❖ Tonight, we will consider the title of Jesus as *The Good Shepherd*.

I. THE PUBLIC DECLARATION

Jn. 10:11a “**I am the good shepherd...**”

- ❖ The Greek word *kalos*, translated “good,” describes that which is noble, wholesome, good, and beautiful, in contrast to that which is wicked, mean, foul, and unlovely. It signifies not only that which is good inwardly—character—but also that which is attractive outwardly.
- ❖ It is an innate goodness. Therefore, in using the phrase “the good shepherd,” Jesus is referencing His inherent goodness, His righteousness, and His beauty. As shepherd of the sheep, He is the one who protects, guides, and nurtures His flock.

II. THE PERSONAL DECISION

Jn. 10:11b “...the **good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**”

Jn. 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but **I lay it down of myself.** I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

❖ Jesus’ death was divinely appointed. It is only through Him that we receive salvation. “I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine.” (John 10:14).

- ❖ Furthermore, Jesus makes it clear that it wasn't just for the Jews that he laid down His life, but also for the "other sheep" – "And **other sheep** I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd." (John 10:16).
- ❖ The "other sheep" clearly refers to the Gentiles. As a result, Jesus is the Good Shepherd over all, both Jew and Gentile, who come to believe upon Him (John 3:16).

III. THE PRIVATE DYNAMIC

- ❖ The Lord Jesus has a powerful relationship with His Father, including the information of the death, burial, and resurrection.
- ❖ The Lord has a powerful relationship with His sheep – “HE is our shepherd; we are his flock.”
But what does that mean?

In John 10, Christ spells out what it means for him to be our shepherd and for us to be his sheep in seven wonderful ways.

1. Christ has received you as a gift from the Father.

Jn. 10:29 My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

- ❖ Christ's sheep are a gift that he receives from the Father.
 - The identifying marks of Christ's sheep are stated clearly in these verses: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:" (10:27). But what does it mean to hear his voice?

- Jesus says earlier, “But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you” (10:26). So it follows that believing is a distinguishing mark of the sheep given to the Son by the Father. Christ’s sheep hear his voice, they believe his Word, and they follow him.

2. Christ knows you completely.

Jn. 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine.

- ❖ Jesus Christ knows you completely! There may be times when you are a mystery to yourself, but you are never a mystery to Christ.

Psa. 103:14 For **he knoweth our frame**; he remembereth that *we are* dust.

- ❖ There is nothing you could ever tell Jesus about yourself that he does not already know completely, and He stills loves us!
- ❖ Here is the joy of following Jesus Christ. Because he knows you completely, He is able to lead you effectively. The Good Shepherd knows what you need, and He is able to give you what you need at precisely the time that you need it.

3. Christ gave himself for you.

Jn. 10:11 I am the good shepherd: **the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.** ...

15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and **I lay down my life for the sheep.**

- ❖ Here is something very wonderful: The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. What a wonderful thought to meditate on this next week!

❖ Everything Jesus endured in His passion was for you.

✦ When He gave Himself into the hands of the arresting party in the Garden of Gethsemane, it was for you.

✦ When He was scourged and beaten, it was for you.

✦ When He was condemned to death, it was for you.

✦ When He hung on that cross in agony, it was for you.

✦ When He was resurrected, it was for you!

Rom. 5:6 For when we were yet without strength,
in due time **Christ died for the ungodly**. ...

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that,
while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us**.

❖ Jesus accomplished everything He had come to do and then He *gave* himself into death. And this is what He has done for you. Christ's sheep can say with Paul, "The Son of God...loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20b).

4. Christ called you and brought you to himself.

Jn. 10:16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

❖ How does he bring us to himself and make us his sheep? The sheep who are called by name in John 10:3.

Jn. 10:3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and **he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. ...**

9 **I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved,** and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

5. Christ owns you and will never abandon you.

Jn. 16:15 All things that the Father hath **are mine**: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

Jn. 17:10 **And all mine are thine, and thine are mine**; and I am glorified in them.

Heb 13:5b “...for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**”

1 Cor. 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 **For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

❖ The hired hand has no real investment in the flock. He shepherds the flock because he is paid to do so.

Jn. 10:12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

❖ There will never be a time when he will say, “You’re not worth it.”

6. Christ gives you eternal life.

Jn. 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

❖ The life Jesus gives is *eternal*. Eternal life, by definition, is a life that never ends, and if you have this life, it's yours forever!

7. Christ guards you and will keep you forever.

Jn. 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

- ❖ What reason do you have for confidence as a Christian when all the pressure stands against you? Can what is yours in Christ be taken away?

❖ Christ's sheep are in his hand. That's the answer!

AW. Pink said,

"The hand of Christ is beneath us, and the hand of the Father is above us. Thus we are secured between the clasped hands of Omnipotence."

IV. THE POWERFUL DELIVERANCE

Jn.10:15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and **I lay down my life for the sheep.**

Jn. 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free. ...**

36 **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**

Summary

- ❖ The Lord Jesus is the *Good Shepherd* and gave His life for His sheep.
- ❖ The Lord loves you, knows you, cares for you, and will NEVER leave you.

CONCLUSION

Rom. 8:31 What shall we then say to these things?

If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

34 *Who is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or
famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the
day long; we are accounted as sheep for the
slaughter.

**37 Nay, in all these things we are more than
conquerors through him that loved us.**

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor
things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature,
**shall be able to separate us from the love of God,
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**