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# I Am the Good Shepherd, John 10:1-18

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## Introduction

- Jesus touches a deep nerve. He reveals a deep need that we all have.
  - In time of crisis people often turn to Psalm 23. It resonates so deeply.
    - Jesus is the shepherd who restores our weary, aching heart.

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## What is the Good Shepherd?

- **Point:** The Good Shepherd provides every need for the sheep.
  - He's a shepherd. Sheep require a shepherd. They wander and are helpless.
    - The shepherd must live with the sheep and provide for them, protect them, and watch over them. They are completely dependent on the shepherd.
  - The image means that Jesus must be *everything* to us.
    - Hearing "the Lord is my shepherd" is comforting but we buck against the reality of it. We like the sound of it but we hate the truth of it.
    - "Your heart basically believes you're a pretty good person, more intelligent than most, and you can generally make the right decisions except in a pinch. So you see, you don't really need a shepherd. Most of us don't want a shepherd. We want a consultant. We want somebody who's on a retainer and can come when we need them. A shepherd is different. Completely different. Face the fact ... you need a shepherd."<sup>1</sup>
    - If you could get in a time machine and go back 10 years to yourself. You tell yourself about all of the foolishness, dumb decisions, and mistakes you're going to make in the next ten years, would your old self believe you?

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## What Makes Jesus the Good Shepherd?

- **Point:** Jesus proves himself to be the Good Shepherd by...
  - ...knowing his sheep.
  - ...protecting his sheep.
  - ...feeding his sheep.
  - ...giving his life for the sheep.

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## What does it look like to live with Jesus as your Shepherd?

- **Point:** The sheep live with Jesus as their Shepherd and not their consultant.
- APP: What does this look like?
  - Obey him comprehensively, existentially, and joyfully.
    - Comprehensively... You can't tell him that he can be your shepherd in one area of life but not another. Are you excluding him from any area of your life?
      - Do this exercise. Write down every single area of your life. Ask yourself two questions: Am I willing to obey everything I know God wants me to do in this area? Am I willing to thank him for whatever he is bringing into this area? If you can't say yes, then you're denying his shepherding.
      - On the day you have to die, will you have anything to do but die?
    - Existentially... When you're most dependent on Jesus is when you will be the most oriented and independent in life.
      - Practically this means continual prayer throughout the day. As a practice, think about the temptations and challenges that will come up in a day. Then go to the Shepherd in prayer when those challenges arise.
  - Joyfully... The sheep are a prized possession of the shepherd.

## End Notes

<sup>1</sup> Timothy J. Keller, The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive (New York City: Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2013).