

I Am The Good Shepherd

John 10

Why Shepherd?

- ▶ The Bible is full of reference concerning **shepherds**, most notable is **Psalm 23**, but there are many others
- ▶ Jesus is not just the **Good Shepherd**, He is also the **Great Shepherd** (Heb. 13:20) and the **Chief Shepherd** (1 Peter 5:4) in the NT
- ▶ Interestingly the picture of **sheep** is also prominent in the Bible (Matt. 15:24; 25:32-33; 1 Peter 2:25)
- ▶ God wants us to know that He is the good shepherd that **provides** for us, **protects** us, and ultimately **preserves** us always.



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Jesus Provides for His Sheep (Psalm 23)

- ▶ Important!!!! A sheep cannot **work** for his **worth**!!!!
- ▶ The idea of working for God's blessings or our identity should forever die in our heart, but sadly...
- ▶ We somehow confused God with **Santa Claus**, "He's making a list, checking it twice, gonna find out who's naughty and nice..." (thankfully not in the Bible)
- ▶ No matter you think you are "naughty" or "nice", He has lay down His life for you. That IS your value. Your service has great **worth**, but that is **NOT** your true value



Jesus Protects His Sheep

- ▶ God does not want us to live in a state of fear because He wants us to enjoy His daily presence with Him (Psalm 27:1-4)
- ▶ Thieves can be **scary** (v.10) worse, they want to **define** us. Thankfully God is greater, and our identity is in Him
- ▶ (Psalm 23:5) this make no sense, unless you understand that that God's provision is our protection.
- ▶ (Psalm 23:6) It is **goodness** and **mercy** that will follow you, not an enemy-free life. If we focus on God's mercy and grace, we will grow behind His shield. (Isa. 43:1-7)



Jesus Preserves His Sheep

- ▶ No one can remove us from God's hand (John 10:28), or His love (Rom. 8:38-39)
- ▶ He will finish what he has started (Phil 1:6) & we are His workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
- ▶ Preservation is one of God's attributes. He preserves His word (Psalm 12:6-7), His works (Col. 1:16-17), and also His people (Heb. 13:20), a main theme in the Bible.
- ▶ Just because someone walks away from God and he thinks his God will walk away from him, he has sorely misjudge the God of Abraham (Eze. 33:10-11, ill: Ahab)



Good Shepherd Is Still Seeking...

- ▶ If Jesus would **provide** for us, **protect** us, and **preserve** us always, what does that mean to our everyday lives?
- ▶ (v.24-31) They cannot accept Jesus' **identity** as their shepherd if they could not accept their identity as **sheep**
- ▶ Can you accept your full **reliance** on the Good Shepherd?
- ▶ Note: responsibility is not reliance. We are still responsible of what we **sow**, but we have no power of the **growth** of what we sow. Therefore we must fully rely on God as our shepherd to guide us.
- ▶ And He is still **seeking** His sheep today...will you respond?

