

The Beautiful^{/Good} Shepherd

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-4 Larry: Stir. Volunteers. Int Day Of Unreached.
- B. Slide5 Church Family Night, this Wed. 6pm dinner (meatball subs). 7pm musical.
- C. Children at Risk *cancelled* next Sun for Fathers Day.

II. Slide6a Intro: The Beautiful^{/Good} Shepherd

- A. A 450 sheep pileup created havok in a Turkish province. July 8, 2005. (AP)¹
 - 1. First one sheep jumped to its death. Then stunned Turkish shepherds, who had left the herd to graze while they had breakfast, watched as nearly **1,500** others followed, each leaping off the same cliff, Turkish media reported. In the end, **450 dead animals** lay on top of one another in a billowy white pile. Those who jumped later were saved as the pile got higher and the fall more cushioned, the *Aksam newspaper* said. [I think there were actually more than the 450 sheep dead, but the shepherd who was **counting** them, fell asleep :)]
 - a) We always hear, sheep are dumb animals (like story above). But sheep are actually surprisingly intelligent, with impressive memory and recognition skills. They have good hearing. Move uphill when disturbed. They have a flocking behavior. And sheep can recognize human faces & other sheep, for years.
- B. Read 10:1-21
- C. Slide6b I'd like to start with the end. Is Jesus *divine* or *deranged*? It's a question everyone of us have to answer this morning. (read 19-21) [*these words* were from 17,18 ie res]
- D. Slide7 Context: What is immediately before these statements of ch.10? [ch.9 *the man born blind*]
 - 1. Jesus became the door/entrance into eternal life for this *former* blind man.
 - 2. Jesus became also became his Good Shepherd. The Pharisees, who were called to be *shepherds* to God's people, were like thieves & robbers. They had no real concern for *the sheep of Israel...especially this poor blind sheep*.

¹ https://www.outsidethebeltway.com/450_sheep_jump_to_their_deaths_in_turkey/

- a) Remember the religious leaders **excommunicated** the newly healed blind man - attempting to *slam the door of God, in his face*.
 - b) Little did they realize that they'd actually *freed him* from their *man-made house of hell* to find the **true Door** who opens **heaven** to us all.
3. **This little parable seems to say:** this is what I'm doing; this is what gives substance to my claim to be sent by God as Israel's true king. The fact that people are **hearing Me and following Me** - notably the man born blind - is the sign that God has sent me.

E. In Jn10 we have 2 more implicit claims to **deity**, from Jesus: *I Am the Door. I Am the Good Shepherd*. A mixing of 2 *metaphors*.

1. **figure of speech** (6) - Illustration, allegory, parable. A story that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning.
2. Though in the same chapter, we *distinguish between them* (because they don't mean the same thing) **but never separate them** (because they're so close to the other). [Here we have Jesus' final **public** address]

III. Slide8a **HE OWNS THE SHEEP (3)**

- A. He calls them **His own**, even before they *follow*.
- B. Few portraits of Jesus have more appeal than His role of *Shepherd*.
- C. **Good Shepherd** - not *good* from just a *merely moralistic standpoint*, **but** it can also mean **beautiful**. *It's about the sheer attractiveness of what, as the shepherd, he was doing. When he calls, people want to come. When they realize he has died for them, they want to even more. The point of calling Jesus 'the good shepherd' is to emphasize the strange, compelling power of his love.* N.T. Wright, John 10
- D. Slide8b God's people are His flock.
 1. Ps.100:3 *We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.*
 2. Is.40:11 *He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, & carry them in His bosom, & gently lead those who are with young.*
 3. Ps.95:7 *For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand* (or, *the sheep under His care*).

E. Slide9 Why does He compare us to sheep?

1. We are prone to wander. (*All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way*)
2. We need a Shepherd to guide us. (like sheep do)
3. Sheep flock together, so should we. (should be no lone wolves!)

F. (3) Hear His voice - listen attentively to & so to obey.

1. They are listening for the **one voice** that **matters**, **the voice** they **trust**.
2. Eg. Elephant & handler in Thailand. (whistle, stopped *eating* to follow)

IV. Slide10 HE LEADS THE SHEEP (3,4)

A. Not like Western shepherds who follows behind...*driving, prodding, urging them forward*. But eastern shepherds **lead** their sheep, *they go before them, and the sheep follow after them*.

B. (4) He brings out His own sheep, He goes before them - a rebuke to the Pharisees who expelled the man born blind.

V. Slide11a HE PROTECTS THE SHEEP (1,5,12)

A. He **protects** them from *thieves, robbers, wolves, strangers, hired hands, etc.*

1. **Steal, kill, destroy** - that's all our enemy & his minions are about.
2. Jesus grants His sheep **entrance** into His fold. *I Am the Door*.

B. *I Am the Door?* - Strange upon first hearing...I'll show you...*I am the Window*.
I am the doorknob. I am the toaster.

C. There are **2 different types** of **sheep-folds**. [**communal** & **individual**]

1. **Communal** sheep-fold - **see** vs.2,3. **A walled in structure**.
 - a) Shepherds would bring their flocks there at night & entrust them to the shepherd (porter/gatekeeper). The shepherd would return the next morning, **call** for his sheep, they would know his voice & come out.
2. **Individual** sheep-fold - **see** vs.7,9. **An open air structure**. Usually made of stones piled up in a circle, **with 1** entrance where the shepherd would sit &

become its door. These were used in ***the warm months*** when the sheep could stay out on the hillsides.

D. In & out to find green pasture (9) - or, spiritual nourishment.

1. Gatekeeper/shepherd/porter regulate the **coming & going** of sheep between the sheep pen & the pasture.
 - a) Sounds like the Fathers promise in Ps.121:8 *The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*
2. In and out. Egress and Ingress (exit & entry).
 - a) He goes in and out at his pleasure...*this is freedom.*
 - b) When he goes **in**, is not shut in like a **criminal**. When he goes **out**, he is not shut out like a **stranger**.
 - (1) If you went **in and** couldn't get **out**, that would be a **prison**.
 - (2) If you went **out and** couldn't get back **in**, you would be a **stranger**.
3. This also speaks to *your rod & your staff they comfort me*.
 - a) The **rod** for *protecting* against when predators appear.
 - b) The **staff** for *directing*. (straight part) to *steer* sheep in the right direction when navigating streams. (the crook) to *rescue* wayward sheep. [which do you need?]
4. **Saved** (9) - the entire process of **soul-health**. F.B.Meyer [In for fellowship, protection, sleep. **Out** for service]
 - a) It is He who gives *salvation, security, & satisfaction* to all who enter here.

E. Slide11b In *Dante's Divine Comedy* he shares the supposed inscription at the **entrance to Hell**, *Abandon all hope ye who enter here*.

1. Does that sign hang anywhere in your life?
2. Any situation in your life that seems hopeless?
 - a) Does it hang over a **bottle of alcohol** that seems impossible to walk away from at night?
 - b) Does it hang over **every meal** with your eating disorder?
 - c) Does it hang over your **unemployment**, thinking you'll never find work?
 - d) Does it hang over your **marriage** that constantly feels *it's over*?

e) Where have you *abandoned all hope*?

3. Slide11c We can affix a different sign at the entrance to this new door, *Abandon your-self ye who enter here*, or *Gain all hope ye who enter here*.

a) Enjoy all HOPE...those who enter here. (through the Jesus Door)

VI. Slide12a HE GIVES LIFE & SATISFACTION TO HIS SHEEP (10b)

A. Because He **gave** His life, He is able to **give** life.

B. See we desire more than just being *safe* from the *thieves, robbers, strangers & hirelings*. Which are the *false Messiahs, false prophets, Pharisees & Scribes, the religious leaders of ch.9*, who were more interested in fleecing the sheep *than* in *guiding, nurturing & guarding* them.

1. See we don't just want to **survive** we want to **thrive** at every level of our being

C. Slide12b Oh, let us **not** be content until our **life** has become *abundant life*. *Because our life, cost the Shepherd His life*.

1. Jesus says, *My abandoned life for your abundant life*.

2. We want **life**. But we want *more than mere life*. We want **abundant life**... **Overflowing life. Deep life. Weighty life. Joyful life.** We were made for this.

D. Christians should have: *such abundant life* that their **circumstances** shouldn't be able to **overcome** them. *such abundant life* that in **poverty** they are **rich**. *such abundant life* that in **sickness** they are in **spiritual health**. *such abundant life* that in **disappointments** they are full of **triumph**. *such abundant life* that in **death** they are full of **glory**.

VII. Slide13 HE KNOWS HIS SHEEP (14)

A. Eastern Shepherds **knew** all the particulars of each of His sheep...*history, defects, temper, & tastes*. [God **knows you** so intimately]

1. **Frédéric Louis Godet** observes (a Swiss Protestant theologian, 1800's) the word **to know** does not mean: I distinguish them from the rest of the Jews.

This word is much more profound. *Jesus penetrates with the eye of His loving knowledge the entire interior being of each of the sheep, and perfectly*

discerns all which He possesses in them.

VIII. Slide 14 **HE DESIRES ONE FLOCK (16)**

A. Many folds (pens), *but only one flock, one Shepherd.*

1. Eph.2:11,13,16 *Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth...but now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been **brought near through the blood of Christ...to reconcile both of them to God through the cross.***

B. **Other sheep I have** - The language is **sovereign & prophetic.**

1. **Gentiles? Yes.** Family members, co-workers, friends, Rohingya & Hani. Those who are not following the Shepherd yet.
2. **What other sheep does He want to lead to Himself, through you?**

IX. Slide 15a **HE GIVES HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP (11,15,17)**

A. **In the OT** the sheep died for the shepherd. **In the NT** Christ is the Shepherd who dies for the sheep. (*not a dangerous possibility*, it's **His vocation**)

B. The story of *the Good Shepherd* is **not** the tragic story of a **Victim** **but** the tremendous story of a **Victor**. One who *voluntarily* laid down His life on our behalf.

C. **Slide 15b** Christ as *the Good Shepherd* gives His life on the cross (Ps. 22).

D. Christ as *the Great Shepherd*, He cares for the sheep (Ps.23 & Heb.13:20).

E. Christ as *the Chief Shepherd*, He will come again in glory for His sheep (Ps.24 & 1Pet. 5:4)

1. The goodness of this Shepherd abides in the fact that He does not spare Himself in looking after the sheep.
2. In vs.18 it speaks about both His **death & resurrection** (longer discussion in Jn.11).

F. **Yes**, this is a 2000 year old story...*but it's a story of a Shepherd so supremely good that nothing stood in the way of His love for His sheep...not even His own life.*

1. Do you **hear** the voice of this Shepherd, calling you this morning?
2. Are you ready to **follow** this Shepherd?