

“The Good Shepherd”

John 10:11-21

Central Idea: Jesus voluntarily gave His life so that we may be saved.

Background:

- Part of Jesus’ teaching following the healing of the man born blind.
- Second part of the application of His illustration (1-5)
- First part is that Jesus is the Door (7-10)

I. The Good Shepherd Cares for the Sheep (11-13)

- “Lays down His life for the sheep” (11)
 - Willing to die for the sheep
 - Protects the sheep at all costs
 - Ultimately Jesus will die for the sheep
- Contrast with the Hired Hand (12-13)
 - Hired hand = not the owner of the sheep
 - Flees when danger comes
 - Does not care about the sheep
 - Acts differently than the shepherd
 - Endangers the sheep with his actions
 - Only concerned about himself

II. The Good Shepherd Knows the Sheep (14-16)

- Has a close personal knowledge of all the sheep (14-15)
 - Knows the sheep by name (3)
 - Knows the sheep the same way He knows the Father
 - Jesus and the Father are one (30)

- The sheep also know the shepherd
 - The knowledge goes both ways
- Has other sheep that He must gather to Him (16)
 - References the sheepfold from His Illustration (1)
 - Sheepfold = Israel
 - Jesus must bring in sheep from outside Israel
 - “One flock with one shepherd” = The Church

III. The Good Shepherd has Complete Authority (17-18)

- Jesus’ sacrifice brings a special love from the Father (17)
 - The reason Jesus lays down His life is so He can take it up again
- He is given complete authority to do this. (18)
 - “lay down” = a voluntary action; “giving up”
 - Jesus’ life is not taken, it is freely given (John 19:10-11)
 - The reason for Christ’s death is His resurrection
 - This is the Father’s plan

IV. The Good Shepherd Divides (19-21)

- The people are divided because He speaks the truth
 - Claims of truth require a response, which causes division

Application:

- Jesus still demands a response
 - Believe His claims are true or reject them as false
- Jesus’ actions prove we can trust Him
 - Accomplishes what He says He will
- Jesus knows us intimately, yet still died for us