

The 4th Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 31, 2019
“Metaphors of the Messiah~ I AM the Good Shepherd”

John 10:1-19

I AM” is the _____ revealed to Moses by God from the burning bush. Comprised of four Hebrew letters, YHWH, the Tetragrammaton, as it’s called, is translated into English as either Yahweh or _____; and was considered to be so _____, that whenever they encountered it in Scripture, they read it as ‘Adonai,’ or _____.

The Hebrews were _____ people, wondering from place to place, seeking pasture for their herds of sheep, goats, and cattle. To sustain their livelihood, it was vital for shepherds to keep their animals from straying; _____ them from thieves and wild animals; and _____ them with plentiful pastures and clean water.

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.” (Psalm 23:1)

God is the One who _____, protects, provides, and _____ for His people—like a shepherd for his sheep.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.” (John 10:11-13)

He does this in direct contrast to the _____ and other religious leaders, who knew nothing about what it meant to _____ for God’s people.

The Pharisees were so caught up with _____ and regulations—with the letter of the _____—that they were unable to see the _____ that had just taken place.

Jesus responds to their _____ and spiritual _____ by accusing them of failing to _____ God’s people.

“You shepherds of Israel—should not shepherds feed the sheep? You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. Therefore you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord, I am against the shepherds.” (Ezekiel 34:1-10)

Where the Pharisees _____ the blind man, Jesus _____ him out. Where they kept him locked in the social stigma of blindness and sin, Jesus gave him sight and set him _____. Where the Pharisees judged and condemned, Jesus _____, forgave, and offered new life. At every turn, Jesus illustrates what it means to be a _____ shepherd.

In their pride and _____—in their desire to maintain the status quo and safeguard their own _____—the Pharisees were unwilling to accept that Jesus was anything more than the _____ son, and so they _____ Him.

“Again the Jews were divided because of these words.” (John 10:19)

good = *agathos* =

good = *kalos* =

Jesus, on the other hand, is the _____ deal! Perfect and _____—in a class by Himself. He alone is the _____ One, the One who is pre-eminent over all other shepherds.

If Jesus is the shepherd in John 10, then we are the _____.

“For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.” (Psalm 95:7)

3 REASONS WHY THIS IS A GOOD IMAGE

• **It puts us in our proper _____.**
It reminds us that Jesus is the _____ and we are the _____.
We are 100% _____ on Him.

Sheep are _____ animals, and so are we. We all get knocked down in life; we all have hardships; we all experience fear; and we all fall _____ to something bigger than ourselves.

• **It reminds us that we need _____.**
Sheep are _____ animals, and so are we. We all need a _____—a place of warmth and _____.

And we all need a _____—family and community—where we find love and _____.

• **It reminds us that we are easily** _____, We may think we're in charge and make all our own _____, the reality is, we can be highly influenced by other _____ and the _____ around us.

JESUS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD

#1. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, _____ and _____ us.
“The gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” (John 10:3-4)

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me...” (John 10:14)

know = ginosko (Grk) =

know = yada (Heb) =

when Jesus says that He knows His sheep, He's saying that our relationship with Him is _____ and personal, and not merely _____.

Jesus calls us by _____; his voice is _____; and we need to _____.

Jesus calls us by name because He _____ us by name—He knows us _____ because He created us.

Everyday, we're bombarded by countless voices calling us to follow, and as sheep who belong to the Good Shepherd, we need to learn to _____ His voice from all the others, so they we can follow Him and Him alone

“My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27)

How well do you hear and know the Good Shepherd's voice?

How well do you follow Him in your everyday life?

#2. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, _____ us.

Jesus clears up the _____ and offers us _____ for our everyday lives.

“When He's brought His own out, He goes on ahead of them and His sheep follow Him because they know His voice.” (John 10:4)

Notice, it says the shepherd _____ the sheep, He doesn't _____ them, or walk alongside them. Jesus is always with us, however, He's the One out in _____, leading us forward—not the other way around.

We can follow the Good Shepherd with _____ that there's no situation we will encounter in life that Jesus hasn't already _____.

“This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus came to earth to experience everything that we experience—He's already been there and done that—so He not only _____ with us and offers us comfort and strength, He can also show us the _____ through.

3 TOOLS THE SHEPHERD USES TO LEAD US

• A _____ was used to defend the sheep against an attacker. It was also used to keep the sheep from _____.

Has God ever done that for you—you were wondering away and He sent a rock ahead to warn you.

• A _____ with a spiked end was also used to defend the sheep against _____.

There's nothing that can come into our lives that Jesus can't _____ because He's _____ than all our trials and challenges.

“Greater is He who is in us than He who is in the world.” (1John 4:4)

• A _____ to guide the sheep. Every moment of our lives, Jesus is checking us over, taking note of our hurt and pain, so that He can bring _____ and _____.

**Who is out front in your life: you or the Good Shepherd?
How closely are you following Him?**

#3. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, _____ His life for us.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (John 10:11)

3 THINGS ABOUT JESUS' DEATH

• **It's** _____.
Jesus' death was neither an _____ nor a _____.

“No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again.” (John 10:18)

Jesus makes it clear that He _____ to give up His life on the cross; and that He wasn't just killed by His _____. The sheep were in mortal danger from _____ and death, and so the Good Shepherd chose to offer His life as a _____.

• **It's** _____.
Jesus dies “for the sheep,” and not for His own _____.

“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:6-8)

Jesus took our _____ and died on our _____.

• **It's** _____.
“For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.” (John 10:17)

As the _____ sacrifice for our sins—Jesus satisfied the _____ and God's perfect _____. In His _____ He demonstrates His victory of over sin and death.

As the Good Shepherd, Jesus didn't just lie down to provide a protective _____ for the sheepfold. He laid down His very _____ on the cross, to show us the kind of shepherd He really is.

“Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)

Who or what am I going to allow to influence my life?

Who am I going to trust to be my shepherd?”

Will it be thieves and robbers = those who use us for their own _____; those who make all kinds of _____, but fail to deliver?

Will it be the hired hands = those whose _____ to us is weak; and at the first sign of _____ run away?

Will it be the Good Shepherd = the One who wants what's _____ for us and _____ provides for our every need—the One who has _____ His love for us by laying down His life?

**Who are you going to follow?
Who are you going to trust as your shepherd?**

†

In calling Himself the Good Shepherd, Jesus is making a direct claim to be _____.

The 23rd Psalm speaks of Jesus as shepherd who _____ for our needs, leading us into _____—into green pastures and still waters.

A Shepherd who in every situation, faithfully revives and _____ our soul.

A Shepherd who is always _____ us—even when we walk through the darkest valley.

A Shepherd who spreads a _____ for us; whose cup is always _____.

With this Shepherd, _____ and _____ is with us, no matter what happens in our life—no matter what our trials or challenges.

A Shepherd who, when our time on earth is done, promises to lead us _____—so that we can dwell in His _____ forever.

This psalm is often read at funerals—I suspect because it brings comfort. However, it wasn't meant for the dead, but for the _____. It was meant as a promise of _____ and _____ for us in our everyday lives.

†

Do I just know the Psalm or do I know the Shepherd?

Do I trust Him enough to care for me and lead me to green pastures and still waters?

Am I following Him in my everyday life?