

## The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter ~ Sunday, April 21, 2024

### “The Resurrected Life: Resurrection Security”

Ezekiel 34:1-10 & John 10:1-18

It’s a sad reality that much of life happens \_\_\_\_\_, out of left field, unplanned and unprepared for.

In the midst of all the uncertainty that we experience in this world, God promises to be our \_\_\_\_\_—our safety and protection.

“The name of the Lord is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe.” (Proverbs 18:10)

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ this image of shepherd and calls Himself. He does this in direct contrast to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the day, who knew nothing about what it meant to care for 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 34:2-7)

If Jesus is the Good Shepherd, then it stands to reason that we are the \_\_\_\_\_.

“Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.” (Psalm 100:3)

### JESUS, OUR GOOD SHEPHERD

#### #1. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, \_\_\_\_\_ His sheep.

“I am the good shepherd, I know my own and my own know me.” (14-15)

“My sheep hear my voice and I know them.” (27)

This \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge of the shepherd for His sheep is important. As Jesus’ sheep, we are of great \_\_\_\_\_. He loves us. He knows us. And He calls us by \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus knows us intimately because He \_\_\_\_\_ us. He knows everything about us—our problems and struggles, our strengths and weaknesses, our joys and sorrows. He knows our \_\_\_\_\_ before we think them, our words before we speak

them, and our actions before we do them. He knows our inner most thoughts and our darkest \_\_\_\_\_. He knows everything about us. Nothing we do surprises Him, He knows us so well. In fact, He knows us \_\_\_\_\_ than we know ourselves.

Everyday, we’re bombarded by countless voices calling us to \_\_\_\_\_, 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.

**Do you want to better live the resurrected life? Do you want to live in safety and security? How well do you know the Good Shepherd’s voice?**

#### #2. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, \_\_\_\_\_ His sheep.

“To Him the gatekeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” (3-4)

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” (27)

As sheep, we often want to \_\_\_\_\_ of the Shepherd, do our own thing, and take or own \_\_\_\_\_.

“Keep in step with the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:16)

The whole point is that we’re not being led by our own \_\_\_\_\_, but by the strength and power of the Holy Spirit. As our Good Shepherd, Jesus leads us by not only showing us the way to go, but also by giving us the \_\_\_\_\_ to get there. Thankfully, we can follow Him with \_\_\_\_\_ that there’s no situation that we’ll encounter in this life that Jesus hasn’t already faced.

**Do you want to better live the resurrected life? Do you want to live in safety and security? How closely are you following the Good Shepherd?**

#### #3. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, \_\_\_\_\_ His sheep.

“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.” (9)

Jesus feeds us with \_\_\_\_\_ food—with His \_\_\_\_\_ and with His spiritual body and blood. He instructs us with a healthy diet, nourishes us, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Just as we need a balanced diet to be \_\_\_\_\_ healthy, we need to ensure that we’re feeding on God’s Word regularly if we want to be \_\_\_\_\_ healthy.

**Do you want to better live the resurrected life? Do you want to live in safety and security? What spiritual food are you eating?**

**#4. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, \_\_\_\_\_ His sheep.**

“A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep.” (12-13)

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

**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 wondering.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ with a spiked end was also used to defend the sheep against attack.

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

**Do you want to better live the resurrected life? Do you want to live in safety and security? Do you know the protection of the Good Shepherd?**

**#5. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, \_\_\_\_\_ His sheep.**

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” (11)

“Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father and I lay down my life for the sheep.” (15)

“He lays down His life for the sheep.” (17-18)

“My Father who has given them to Me.” (29)

Before Jesus laid down His life for His sheep, He received them in \_\_\_\_\_, or trust, from the \_\_\_\_\_.

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours and you gave them to me...” (John 17: 6)

This idea of Jesus ‘laying down’ His life, is similar to the language of \_\_\_\_\_ that we see when Jesus ‘laid aside’ His garments and washed the disciples’ feet In John 13.

This act of service \_\_\_\_\_ how, as the suffering servant, Jesus would lay down His life for the world. Through His finished work on the cross, Jesus shed His own blood on behalf of the sheep to \_\_\_\_\_ them, purchase them, and to mark them as \_\_\_\_\_ forever

**Do you want to better live the resurrected life? Do you want to live in safety and security? Do you fully appreciate what Jesus did for you on the Cross?**

**#6. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, actively \_\_\_\_\_ His sheep.**

“I have other sheep that are not of this fold and I must bring them also.” (16)

This is an \_\_\_\_\_, missionary text.

Jesus seeks out His \_\_\_\_\_ sheep, and longs to gather them to Himself, and welcome them into His sheepfold. As His followers, we need to have the same \_\_\_\_\_ as Jesus when it comes to evangelism and the proclamation of the gospel.

“I am the door. If anyone enters through Me, He will be saved and go in and out and find pasture.” (9)

Despite what religious relativism would have us think, all paths \_\_\_\_\_ lead to God—at least as He’s revealed in and through Jesus.

“My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I will give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.” (27-28)

**Do you want to better live the resurrected life? Do you want to live in safety and security? How passionate are you about sharing the Good News?**

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**Will I recognize and accept who Jesus is? Will I come to Him, turn to Him, submit to Him, and follow Him?**

**What drives me?**

**Who leads me?**

**“Will you follow Jesus?”**

**Will you hear His voice and let Him lead you?**