

**JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD**  
**THE GOOD SHEPHERD - PART 2**

John 10

**(Jn 10:8-18)**, “Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly. <sup>11</sup> I am the **GOOD SHEPHERD**: the **GOOD SHEPHERD** giveth his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. <sup>13</sup> The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the **GOOD SHEPHERD**, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine. <sup>15</sup> As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. <sup>18</sup> No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”



(1) **Chapter 10** appears to be **connected** to **chapter 9** by use of the first two words in John 10, “**Verily, Verily.**” The connection between those two chapters appears to be the **SHARP CONTRAST** between **the way Jesus treated** the blind man that He had healed, and the way the **religious authorities** treated that blind man. The religious authorities **excommunicated** the blind man. In contrast, Jesus pursued the blind man the way a shepherd pursues a lost sheep. Jesus not only gave the blind man his sight, He brings him into God’s eternal family.

(2) **In John 10** Jesus **ILLUSTRATED HIS PURSUIT** of the blind man by telling the story of the Good Shepherd. Jesus used **PICTURE WORDS to communicate** His story. His picture words were much like pictures are used in **hieroglyphics**. Each picture was intended to communicate **some detail** that had **specific meaning**. **Each item** had a corresponding significance that depicted **a real fact**. (New Commentary on the Whole Bible)

In the previous message from John 10, we looked at **TEN IMPORTANT PICTURE WORDS** from both a **historical** and **spiritual** perspective. Those ten details were:

**#1. “SHEPHERD”**

**#2. “SHEEP”**

**#3. “SHEEPFOLD”**

A **“SHEEPFOLD”** was an enclosed space where flocks of sheep were often kept overnight. The “sheepfold” often consisted of **four stone walls**.

**#4. “DOOR”**

One of the walls in the “sheepfold” contained an opening called a “door,” or “gate.” The gate was used to allow the sheep to **enter** and **exit** from the pen.

**#5. “PORTER”**

The Greek word for **“PORTER”** means **“GATEKEEPER.”** The gatekeeper often kept the sheep safe at night by lying down in the opening in the fence. The gatekeeper actually became the gate. The only way anyone could get through the gate was to go over the “gatekeeper.” **SOMETIMES the shepherd himself** served as the “gatekeeper.” **AT OTHER TIMES** the “gatekeeper” was **a hired person**.

**#6. “THIEVES” and “ROBBERS”** would occasionally sneak over the wall of a sheep pen and steal a sheep. It was the shepherd’s responsibility to protect the sheep from thieves and robbers.

Sometimes **shepherds would mix** their sheep in the pen with other sheep that belonged to other shepherds. When their shepherd came for them in the morning, he would **(#7) “CALL”** them. His sheep would **“hear”** his voice, and they would **“follow”** him out of the pen. If a **(#8) “STRANGE”** shepherd called out to them, they would not follow him because they did not recognize his voice. They responded only to the voice of their shepherd.

The shepherd took his sheep out to **(#9) “PASTURE.”** In the pasture the sheep were fed and nourished. Occasionally, while out in the pasture, that flock would come under attack by some wild animal. The good shepherd would not abandon his sheep when the flock was faced with danger. The good shepherd was not like the **(#10) “HIRELING”** who would sometimes run when the sheep were faced with danger.

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The crowd Jesus addressed did **not have a difficult time understanding** a story about sheep and shepherds. None of those ten details were difficult for them to grasp or understand. They did have a difficult time understanding and accepting the spiritual application associated with the details.

**(V. 6), “. . . THEY UNDERSTOOD NOT** what things they were which he spake unto them.”

Scripture is clear as to why some people cannot grasp spiritual truth that is associated with Jesus.

C **(2 Co 4:3-4)**, “But if our gospel be **HID**, it is **HID** to them that are lost: <sup>4</sup>In whom the god of this world hath **BLINDED** the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

C **(1 Co 1:18)**, “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

C **(1 Co 2:14)**, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are **spiritually discerned.**”

**This message** begins an effort to **organize** the details from John 10 under **THREE DIFFERENT HEADINGS.**

- #1. **THE GOOD SHEPHERD**
- #2. **TRUE SHEEP – FALSE SHEEP**
- #3. **GOOD SHEPHERD – EVIL SHEPHERDS**

**Time** will only permit dealing with the first point in this message. The additional two points will be covered at a later time.

In John 10, Jesus revealed at least **FIVE FACTS** about Himself. His claims **so infuriated** the religious authorities that they **eventually arrested** Jesus and had Him **crucified.** The problem for them was that Jesus was resurrected from the dead and proved all of His claims to be true.

THOSE FIVE FACTS ABOUT JESUS ARE:

- I. JESUS IS **GOD’S MESSIAH**
- II. JESUS IS **THE SUBJECT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT’S WITNESS**
- III. JESUS IS **THE “DOOR” TO “LIFE”**
- IV. JESUS IS **GOOD**
- V. JESUS IS **GOD**

## **I. JESUS IS GOD’S MESSIAH**

**(V. 1)**, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth **not** by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.”

JESUS WAS SAYING:

**S FALSE MESSIAHS DO NOT COME THROUGH GOD’S GATE.** False messiahs, like “thieves” and “robbers,” crawl over the wall in order to get into the sheep pen.

**S EVERY GENERATION** has had false messiahs that have climbed over the wall and claimed to be God's Messiah.

(1) In our generation there was **JIM JONES**. He led a doomsday cult to commit mass suicide in 1978. As many as 914 people followed Jim Jones to their death believing that he was the Messiah.

(2) **REV. SUN MYUNG MOON** teaches that Jesus failed in His mission to be God's Messiah when He died on the cross. He therefore offers himself up as God's Messiah.

**Neither** of those two men walked through the gate of God's Messiahship. They **both** crawled over the fence and claimed to be God's Messiah, even though they are not.

**(V. 2)**, "But he that entereth in by **THE DOOR** is the shepherd of the sheep."

**S GOD'S TRUE MESSIAH COMES THROUGH GOD'S PRESCRIBED GATE.** God described that "gate" to **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob** and their **descendants** through **MANY SPECIFIC PROMISES**.

(1) GOD PROMISED THEM **A NATION**. He called that nation by the name of *Israel*. Although God loved all people, God **had** (and **has**) a special purpose for *Israel*.

(2) GOD PROMISED THEM **A LAND**. That land became known as the *Promised Land*, or *Israel*.

(3) GOD PROMISED THEM **A MESSIAH**. That Messiah would be born in the *Promised Land* from the *Nation of Israel*.

**S** Scripture promised **ONLY ONE MESSIAH**. God did not promise two, or five, or ten Messiahs—He promised **only one**. **JESUS SAID:**

**(V. 16)**, "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be **ONE FOLD**, *and* **ONE SHEPHERD**."

**S** On many occasions God gave **GLIMPSES** in His Word as to what that **one** coming *Messiah* would **be like**. **If** any person claiming to be God's Messiah failed to match God's descriptions, then that person would be known as a **false Messiah** (a "thief"). **The true Messiah** would have to meet all the **criteria** to **validate** that He had entered in through **the "gate"** of God's Messiahship in a legal manner.

**S** Jesus **acknowledged this reality** after His resurrection. **(Luke 24:25-27)**, ". . . O fools, and SLOW OF HEART TO BELIEVE **all that the prophets have spoken: {26} Ought not Christ to have suffered** these things, and to enter into his glory? {27} And **beginning at MOSES and all the PROPHETS**, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."

**S** Jesus was simply stating that He had **walked through the gate** of God's Messiahship. He was God's Messiah. **He did not** climb over the wall.

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**S THE EVIDENCE** of Jesus' Messiahship is **just as EVIDENT TODAY** as it was two thousand years ago. **CONSIDER A FEW EXAMPLES** OF PROPHECIES THAT PROVE THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH:

#### **EXAMPLE # 1**

**!** ". . . *They pierced my hands and my feet.*"

**!** "*They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.*"

**!** "*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*"

**S** You might be inclined to say, "That sounds much like the **N.T. account** of **JESUS' CRUCIFIXION**." That is certainly the

case, but those exact words come from **PSALM 22** and were written by King David **1,000 years before Jesus** and **500 years before crucifixion** was even a means of capital punishment.

#### EXAMPLE # 2

**!** *“. . . So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.”*

**S** That sounds like the **N.T. account** of **JUDAS** betraying Jesus. Those words are found in **ZECHARIAH 11:12-13** and were recorded **more than 400 years** before Judas betrayed Jesus.

#### EXAMPLE # 3

**!** *"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."*

**S** That sounds like Jesus when He refused to react with hatred toward his abusers. Those words were recorded more than **700 YEARS** before Jesus ever stood in Herod's court. They are taken from **ISAIAH 53**.

#### EXAMPLE # 4

**!** *(Isa 35:5), "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped."*

**S** Jesus did just that. He caused the blind to see. He caused the deaf to hear. **JESUS fits perfectly** the prophesied description of the Messiah because:

##### I. JESUS IS GOD'S MESSIAH

## II. JESUS IS THE SUBJECT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WITNESS

**(V. 3)**, "To him **THE PORTER OPENETH**; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out."

**S** "TO HIM" refers to Jesus.

**S** "**THE PORTER OPENETH**" refers to the "**GATEKEEPER.**" The *gatekeeper* **was** charged with making sure that the right shepherd walked through the gate and that the right sheep followed him out. Spiritually, it referred to **someone** who **was charged** with **making sure** only the Messiah walked through the gate.

**S** **THERE IS SOME DEBATE** as to whom exactly the "**GATEKEEPER**" represented. It appears that most people believe the *gatekeeper* represents **GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT**. The Holy Spirit's ministry would involve **pointing people to Jesus**.

**S** **JESUS SAID:**

**(Jn 16:7-14)**, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. <sup>8</sup> And when he is come, **HE WILL** reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: <sup>9</sup> **OF SIN**, because they believe not on me; <sup>10</sup> Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; <sup>11</sup> Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. <sup>12</sup> I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will **GUIDE YOU** into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. <sup>14</sup> **HE SHALL GLORIFY ME:** for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you."

**S** When **PETER** acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God, Jesus was quick to tell Peter how he was able to have such accurate understanding. He said:

**(Mt 16:16-17)**, “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”

- S** Should someone come to Jesus **today**, it will not be the result of human ingenuity. It will be the result of the Holy Spirit doing a supernatural work of enlightening that person’s heart and mind.
- (Jn 1:13)**, “Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

- I. JESUS IS **GOD’S MESSIAH**
- II. JESUS IS **THE SUBJECT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT’S WITNESS**

### III. JESUS IS THE “DOOR” TO “LIFE”

JESUS USED THE WORD “**DOOR**” **FOUR TIMES** in John 10, but He also used it in **TWO DIFFERENT WAYS**:

- 1) IN **VERSE 2** Jesus walked through the “door” of **God’s Messiahship**. By walking through the “door” of God’s Messiahship, He offered **confirmation** of His Messiahship to every sincere seeker of God.
- 2) IN **VERSES 7 AND 9**, **JESUS used “DOOR”** in a second way. In this second instance, rather than Jesus walking through the *door*, **Jesus is the door**.
  - C (V. 7)**, “. . . Verily, verily, I say unto you, I AM THE **DOOR** of the sheep.”
  - C (V. 9)**, “I AM THE **DOOR**: . . . ”

**JESUS IS THE DOOR TO LIFE!** Every believer has to walk through the second door in order to RECEIVE THE GIFT OF “**GOD’S LIFE**.” Jesus said it this way:

- C (V. 9)**, “I am the **door**: by me **IF** any man enter in, he shall be **SAVED**, . . . ”

JOHN SAID:

- C (1 Jn 5:12)**, “He that hath the Son hath **LIFE**; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not **LIFE**.”

Either a person has “**LIFE**,” or they have what John called “**NOT LIFE**.” Either a person is “**saved**,” or they are “**not saved**.” When a person has “life,” it is because they have **received Jesus** as Savior, i.e., they have **walked through the “door”** into God’s “life.”

**THE METHOD** by which God would provide “**LIFE**” (salvation) for His sheep always included the death of the Messiah.

**(Re 13:8)**, “. . . The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

Jesus mentioned His coming death **FOUR TIMES** in John 10.

- 1) **(V. 11)**, “. . . The good shepherd **giveth his life** for the sheep.”
- 2) **(V. 15)**, “. . . **I lay down my life** for the sheep.”
- 3) **(V. 17)**, “. . . **I lay down my life**, that I might take it again.”
- 4) **(V. 18)**, “No man taketh it from me, but **I lay it down** of myself . . . ”

- S** JESUS **KNEW** what **awaited Him** three or four short months down the road. He knew that crucifixion awaited Him in Jerusalem during the next Feast of **Passover**. Jesus would serve as the fulfillment of Passover by laying down His life as the *lamb of God* who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

- S** **Jesus had to die** so that His sheep could have “**LIFE**.” Jesus death was unique in that it was **substitutionary**.

**C (Heb 9:22)**, “. . . Without shedding of blood is no **remission**.”

- C (Is 53:5)**, “But he *was* wounded **for our transgressions**, *he was* bruised **for our iniquities**: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes **we are healed**.”

- C **(Ro 5:8)**, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us.**”
- C **(2 Co 5:21)**, “For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
- C **(1 Pe 2:24)**, “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”
- C **(1 Pe 3:18)**, “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”

**S** Jesus’ death was **GOD’S PROVISION** so that we might have **“LIFE.”**  
God’s gift of “life” through Jesus Christ **WAS TWOFOLD:**

#### **GOD’S LIFE IS “ETERNAL LIFE”**

**(V. 28)**, “And **I** give unto them **ETERNAL LIFE**; and they shall never perish, . . . ”

- C **(Jn 3:36)**, “He that believeth on the Son hath **everlasting life**: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”
- C **(Jn 11:26)**, “And whosoever liveth and believeth in me **shall never die**. Believest thou this?”

#### **GOD’S LIFE IS “ABUNDANT LIFE”**

**(V. 9)**, “. . . He . . . **SHALL GO IN AND OUT**, and find **PASTURE.**”

**(V. 10)**, “. . . I am come that they might have **LIFE**, and that they might have **IT** more **ABUNDANTLY.**”

- S** Plans are to preach an entire message on the subject of God’s gift of abundant life. Suffice it to say at this time that God’s desire is that all His sheep experience His abundant life.

WHO DID JESUS SAY HE WAS?

- I. JESUS IS **GOD’S MESSIAH**
- II. JESUS IS **THE SUBJECT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT’S WITNESS**
- III. JESUS IS **THE “DOOR” TO “LIFE”**

#### **IV. JESUS IS GOOD**

TWICE JESUS SAID:

**(V. 11)**, “I am the **GOOD SHEPHERD**: . . . ”

**(V. 14)**, “I am the **GOOD SHEPHERD**, . . . ”

JESUS REVEALED **TWO THINGS** about Himself in those two verses. He revealed that He was God’s **SHEPHERD**. Jesus also revealed what kind of shepherd He was. Jesus was **THE “GOOD” SHEPHERD**.

- S** The word translated **“GOOD”** means **“intrinsically good.”**  
Jesus’ *goodness* was *intrinsic* to His very nature. When Jesus was *good*, He was simply being who He was. Jesus didn’t have to try to be good. Jesus was good! The Heavenly Father never had to say to His Son, “Now, Son, You be good.” Jesus was good by His very nature.
- S** The True Shepherd demonstrates His goodness in **FOUR DIFFERENT WAYS:**

#### **#1. THE SHEPHERD’S “GOODNESS” IS DEMONSTRATED**

##### **BY THE FACT THAT HE KNOWS HIS SHEEP**

**(V. 3)**, “. . . He **CALLETH** his own sheep **BY NAME**, . . . ”

**(V. 14)**, “I . . . **KNOW** my *sheep*, . . . ”

**(V. 27)**, “My sheep hear my voice, and I **KNOW THEM**, . . . ”

- S** The Middle Eastern shepherd had such **intimate knowledge** of his flock of sheep, that he could actually **call them by name**.
- S** Having grown up on **THE FARM**, I can state emphatically that we did not know the names of our cattle. We might have named a milk cow, but the herd of cattle went nameless.

The difference between the farmers of today, and the shepherds of Jesus' day, is that the shepherds actually lived among their sheep. Their flocks of sheep were often small, and as a result, the shepherds often literally called each sheep by name. They walked the hillsides with their sheep day after day. Many times they spent the night with them in the sheep pen. They developed such a close relationship with the sheep that the shepherd even knew the personality of each of his sheep.

THE SHEPHERD'S "GOODNESS" IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT:  
#1. HE KNOWS HIS SHEEP

**#2. THE SHEPHERD'S "GOODNESS" IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT HE SPEAKS TO HIS SHEEP**

**(V. 3)**, "... The sheep HEAR HIS VOICE: ..."

**(V. 3)**, "... He CALLETH his own sheep ..."

**(V. 27)**, "My sheep HEAR MY VOICE, ..."

**S GOD KNOWS YOU!**

**C (Na 1:7)**, "... He knoweth them that trust in him."

**C (2 Ti 2:19)**, "... The Lord KNOWETH them that are his ..."

**C (Ps 139:1-2)**, "O LORD, thou hast searched me, and KNOWN me.<sup>2</sup> Thou KNOWEST my downsitting and mine uprising, thou UNDERSTANDEST my thought afar off."

**S GOD KNOWS YOU!** He has the very **hairs** of your head numbered (Luke 12:7). He knows your **name** (John 10:3). If you are in God's sheepfold, He has your name recorded in His book called **the Lamb's Book of Life** (Rev 21:27). He even knows **the number of days** that you will live on earth (Psalm 139).  
**GOD KNOWS YOU!**

**S** When Jesus walked through the city of **JERICHO**, He looked up into a sycamore tree and saw a little guy watching Him walk by. Jesus **called** the little guy up in the tree **by name**. Jesus said to him:

**(Lk 19:5)**, "And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, **ZACCHAEUS**, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house."

**S** Jesus was relating **actual events** that took place on a daily basis in sheep pens throughout Israel. A shepherd would enter the sheep pen in the morning hours and he would **call out** to his sheep. He literally **spoke to** his sheep. I am not sure what words he used, but whatever they were, the sheep recognized his voice.

**S** That **earthly reality** portrays **A HEAVENLY TRUTH**. Jesus was not teaching a course on *sheep raising*, or *shepherding*. Jesus was **teaching** and **illustrating** the fact that **the Good Shepherd SPEAKS** to His sheep.

**THAT POSES A QUESTION—HOW DOES GOD SPEAK TO HIS SHEEP?** He uses **TWO PRIMARY METHODS**:

**(1) THE GOOD SHEPHERD SPEAKS TO HIS SHEEP THROUGH HIS WORD.**

When we read **THE BIBLE**, God speaks to us. Perhaps this very day the Good Shepherd is speaking to someone through John 10.

**(2) THE GOOD SHEPHERD SPEAKS TO HIS SHEEP THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**BEFORE WE WERE SAVED:**

**C (Jn 16:8)**, "And when he is come, he will **reprove** the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:"

C I remember well the night the Holy Spirit began to convict me with my need to walk through the door of God's **salvation**. It was not a comfortable feeling at all. Once I responded, it became the most blessed experience of life.

#### AFTER SALVATION HE CONTINUES SPEAKING TO YOU:

C **(Jn 16:13)**, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you** into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

C **(Ro 8:26)**, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

C I remember when God began to call me to be a **pastor**. The Holy Spirit spoke strong and clear. I never heard an audible voice. It was much louder than that. After several weeks of resistance, I surrendered to that call.

THE SHEPHERD'S "GOODNESS" IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACTS:

- #1. HE **KNOWS** HIS SHEEP
- #2. HE **SPEAKS** TO HIS SHEEP

**#3. THE SHEPHERD'S "GOODNESS" IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT HE LEADS HIS SHEEP**  
**(V. 3-4)**, "... HE ... **LEADETH** them out. <sup>4</sup> ... HE **GOETH BEFORE THEM**, ..."

S It is interesting **the difference** between **CATTLE** and **SHEEP**. During my years in my parents' home, my dad raised **CATTLE**. One thing I learned about cattle is they do not follow. Cattle have to be driven. You get behind a herd of cattle with horses, or a pick up truck, and you drive them to the place you want them to go.

S It is different with **sheep**. When the shepherd and his sheep know one another, **the sheep follow** the shepherd. With staff in hand, the shepherd goes before his sheep and he **leads them** into the pasture to eat.

S **GOD, OUR SHEPHERD, WILL LEAD YOU** if you let Him.

C **(Pr 3:5-6)**, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**"

C **(Ro 12:1-2)**, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that ye may prove** what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

THE SHEPHERD'S "GOODNESS" IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACTS:

- #1. HE **KNOWS** HIS SHEEP
- #2. HE **SPEAKS** TO HIS SHEEP
- #3. HE **LEADS** HIS SHEEP

**#4. HIS "GOODNESS" IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT HE CARES FOR HIS SHEEP**  
**(V. 13)**, "The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and **CARETH** not for the sheep."  
**(V. 11)**, "... The good shepherd **giveth his life** for the sheep."

S Jesus proved His care for the sheep by dying on the **CROSS**. He died on the **cross** for us because He loved us.

S Let it soak into your heart long and deep. Mark it down clear and plain—Jesus **CARES FOR YOU!**

C The **CHAMPION OF OUR FAITH** FOUGHT FOR US ALL THE WAY TO THE CROSS! He loves us! He cares for us! He has our best interest in mind!

- C (1 Pe 5:7), “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”
- C (Php 1:6), “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:”

- I. JESUS IS GOD’S MESSIAH
- II. JESUS IS THE SUBJECT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT’S WITNESS
- III. JESUS IS THE “DOOR” TO “LIFE”
- IV. JESUS IS GOD’S “GOOD” SHEPHERD

## #5. JESUS IS GOD

As the crowd listened to Jesus that day in the temple, they realized that Jesus was talking about **HIMSELF**. **Some** liked what Jesus had to say and believed in Him. But **most**, sad to say, were **infuriated** by what He had to say and determined in their hearts to do all they could to kill Him. They did not determine to just run Him out of town, they determined to kill Him.

<sup>19</sup> There was **A DIVISION** therefore again among the Jews for these sayings.

C <sup>20</sup> And **MANY OF THEM SAID**, “He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?”

C <sup>21</sup> **OTHERS SAID**, “These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?”

<sup>22</sup> And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter. <sup>23</sup> And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon’s porch. <sup>24</sup> Then came **THE JEWS** round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

<sup>25</sup> **JESUS ANSWERED** them, **I told you**, and **ye believed not: the works** that I do in my Father’s name, they **bear witness** of me. <sup>26</sup> But **ye believe not**, BECAUSE ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: <sup>28</sup> And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup> **I and my Father are one.**

<sup>31</sup> Then **THE JEWS** took up **STONES** again to stone him.

**S THE ISSUE** THAT ANGERED them most was that Jesus indicated He was God. Some modern liberal theologians may not understand that Jesus was claiming to be God, but the Jewish leaders understood it clearly. That is why they started to kill Him on the spot.

C <sup>31</sup> Then **THE JEWS** took up **STONES** again to stone him.

BECAUSE JESUS SAID:

C <sup>30</sup> **I and my Father are one.**

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## WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE TO JESUS?

**ALBERT B. SIMPSON,**

What will you do with Jesus?  
Neutral you cannot be,  
Someday you will be asking,  
`What will He do with me?'"

## WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS? IS JESUS YOUR MESSIAH?

Has the Holy Spirit helped you to recognize Him as such? Have you **walked through the “door”** of Jesus Christ so as to have experienced God’s salvation? Does He **“know”** you? **“Speak”** to you? **“Lead”** you?

**S** Perhaps you have not yet experienced Jesus as your Savior and Shepherd. Perhaps something in your heart is crying out today with a desire to receive Jesus as your Shepherd.

**S** If that is your desire today, did you know that you were mentioned by Jesus in John 10?

**(Jn 10:16)**, “And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and **they** shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.”

We sing, “I can hear the Savior Calling.” Can you?

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THE NEXT MESSAGE will be titled,

**TRUE SHEEP, FALSE SHEEP**

THE MESSAGE to follow that will be titled,

**GOOD SHEPHERD, BAD SHEPHERDS**