

You Can't Pay Me to Do that Job!

John 10:11-18

John 10:1-18 uses the picture of a shepherd and the sheep to describe the relationship of Christ and his people. It contains two “I am” statements—the door and the good shepherd. The door in 10:1-10 focuses on the security the shepherd provides, while the good shepherd in 10:11-18 focuses on the intimate relationship the shepherd has with the sheep and the sense of belonging we have as being part of his flock.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who is deeply committed to the ones he loves.

The Good Shepherd is Sacrificial: He Dies for his Flock (11-13)

Good Shepherd

“Good” means beautiful, noble, excellent. The shepherd is ideal in his character and work; the only one in his class.

Gives his life (11)

He voluntarily lays down his life for the sheep.

Owner (12)

He has a vested interest because he owns the sheep.

Protects flock from danger

When danger comes, he stays and protects, even at the cost of his own life

Cares deeply for the sheep

He loves the sheep because he knows them well.

Hired Hand

Gives his time

It's a job, not a commitment.

Employee

He watches over the sheep because he is paid to do so. His only interest is personal gain.

Abandons flock to danger (12)

When danger comes, he bolts and runs. He allows the flock to be attacked and scattered.

Cares nothing for the sheep (13)

He has no interest in the health and welfare of the sheep. He has no love for them.

The Good Shepherd is Relational: He Knows his Flock (14-15)

The shepherd takes a personal interest in each of his sheep.

He knows our names (10:3).

He knows our natures.

He knows our needs.

Jesus knows his sheep in the same way that the Father knows the Son.

“What matters supremely, therefore, is not, in the last analysis, the fact that I know God, but the larger fact which underlies it—the fact that he knows me. I am graven on the palms of his hands. I am never out of his mind. All my knowledge of him depends on his sustained initiative in knowing me.” J. I. Packer, in *Knowing God*

The Good Shepherd is Intentional: He Unites his Flock (16-18)

The shepherd has a missionary message.

He has other sheep (Gentiles) which he calls and invites to join his flock.

There will only be one flock—not separate, but equal flocks.

His voluntary death (mentioned five times in verses 11, 15, 17, 18) will be followed by a victorious resurrection (18). Jesus was not a victim of fate. He had the authority to give up his life. He also had the authority to raise up his life again.

Do you believe ...?

- Jesus knows you better than anyone and still loves you completely.
- Jesus would die for you if you were the only person on earth.
- Jesus will never abandon you.
- Jesus is deeply committed to you.
- Jesus is sovereignly in control of the details of life.