

The Good Shepherd

I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

~ John 10:11

Discover the Context

John 10:7-30



As you read Psalm 23 from today's *Digging Deeper*, contemplate the importance of the word "my" in verse one, and then list all the blessings that come if He is your Shepherd.



How have your daily devotions been going the past two weeks? For any success you've had, how can you give the glory to God? If you have skipped or lagged behind, what excuses have you found yourself making? What truth can you speak to yourself to encourage fellowship with your Shepherd?



For each attribute of a sheep listed below, write a corresponding quality of the Shepherd that addresses it.

- Stupid –
- Wandering –
- Weak –
- Scared –
- Defenseless –
- Vulnerable –

There can be no doubt that the Good Shepherd is Jesus Christ and that His sheep are Christians. Notice in this biblical imagery that not all people are His sheep—nonbelievers are goats, and will ultimately be separated from the sheep on the judgment day (Matthew 25:31-33).

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, then you are one of His sheep. Remember, your salvation does not depend on who you are, how you feel today, or what you do. It depends completely on who Jesus Christ is and what He has done for you. Your strength, wisdom, grace, and all-sufficiency is found only in Christ, your Good Shepherd (Colossians 2:9-10).

Later in John 10, Jesus says, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (verse 27). Do not be inclined to run ahead of the Good Shepherd, and be careful that you don't lag too far behind. Learn to know and love that voice. Has His voice become faint and distant? Don't let the clutter and noise of camp drown out the lovely voice of your Good Shepherd, which you can hear in His Word.

Have you ever been lost in the woods? It can even happen to Mr. Outdoorsman. It's frightening, especially if you're all alone. Your eyes scan for some familiar mark. Your heart aches to be with friends. Your ears desperately strain to hear sounds which can guide you back to camp. Ah! What a lovely sound it is to hear the voices of your friends in the distance!

Is it that way with your Good Shepherd? If you've been losing your way recently, then strain your ears to hear the voice of Jesus Christ again. Run into His arms of love and care and comfort. And when He wraps His arms around you, take particular notice of the wounds on His hands. He is the Good Shepherd who has given His life for His sheep on the cross. [JCR]