

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1. Text: John 10:1-15
2. Few moderns have ever seen sheep with a shepherd. Vast difference in ancient eastern world with sheep. Still common in Bible lands.
3. Shepherds deeply rooted in Old Testament: Psalm 23:1 Lord is Shepherd; Psalm 95:7 Sheep of His hand; Isaiah 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; Jeremiah 23:1-4 Woe to the shepherds who scatter the flocks.
4. The New Testament uses the same theme: I Peter 2:25; 5:4 Christ called shepherd; Also Hebrews 13:20; used of leaders of church Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2,3; Christ used imagery in Luke 15:4; Matthew 9:36; Luke 12:32.
5. Most famous is John 10. Christ as the Good Shepherd:

I. His Relation (To The Sheep)

1. He owns. Verses 3,4,12
2. Verse 14 "I know my sheep and am known by them."
3. "Good" Shepherd (verse 11)
4. Calls them by name (verse 3)
5. In Palestine: Raised for milk and wool, not killing so years of companionship. Had name for each.
6. Apply: (I Corinthians 6:20)

II. His Leadership

1. Leads them out (v. 3), Eastern way: Lead, not drive.
2. Verse 4: Brings them out, he goes before them and they follow.
3. Sheep as dumb animals; Apply:

III. His voice

1. Verse 3: They hear his voice. Verse 4: They know his voice.
2. Verse 5: Don't know voice of strangers and run. Verse 11: Thieves' voice.
3. In Palestine: Each had a special call, a weird, unearthly sound. What looked like a hopeless situation: mixing of herds. Attempted imitations:
4. Apply:

IV. His Authority

1. Verse 2: Shepherd enters by door. Verse 7: I am the door of the sheep. Verse 9: I am the door. Enter by me: salvation, can go in and out.
2. In Palestine: sheep had folds, usually of stacked stone. Man placed at door to determine what went in and out.
3. Apply:

V. His Provisions

1. Verse 9: Salvation; find pasture.
2. Verse 10: I came that they might have abundant life.
3. In Palestine: Pasture was scarce and wells few. Shepherds had to know where to find food and water. Care was continuous.
4. Apply:

VI. His Sacrifice

1. Verse 11: Gives his life for sheep. Verse 12: Not like hireling who flees, not caring.
2. Verse 15: I lay down life for sheep.
3. In Palestine: Expert trackers. Faced wild animals. Fought off thieves. Responsible with lives for sheep.
4. Apply:

Conclusion: Counting sheep? Verse 16: Sheep not of this fold?

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
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