



THE CHRIST, TEACHER, PROPHET, FRIEND, LORD, SHEPHERD, BRIDEGROOM

JEFF HOOVER - JULY 19, 2015 - EVANGEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

MATTHEW 16:13-16 NIV

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

JESUS, MY SHEPHERD

– “I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD”: JOHN 9:40-10:21

- ⁴⁰ SOME PHARISEES WHO WERE STANDING NEARBY HEARD HIM AND ASKED, “ARE YOU SAYING WE’RE BLIND?”
- ⁴¹ “IF YOU WERE BLIND, YOU WOULDN’T BE GUILTY,” JESUS REPLIED. “BUT YOU REMAIN GUILTY BECAUSE YOU CLAIM YOU CAN SEE.
 - The Pharisees probably thought Jesus would say, “Of course you’re not!” Jesus goes on to say, if the Pharisees were actually blind to spiritual things, they could have pleaded ignorance as a defense. But their presumption in claiming to have great spiritual insight and leadership made them “guilty.” It is dangerous to be a teacher of spiritual truths.
 - ¹⁹ You are convinced that you are a guide for the blind and a light for people who are lost in darkness. ²⁰ You think you can instruct the ignorant and teach children the ways of God. For you are certain that God’s law gives you complete knowledge and truth. ²¹ Well then, if you teach others, why don’t you teach yourself?...²³ **You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it.**” (Rom 2:19–21, 23 NLT-SE)
- ¹ “I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, ANYONE WHO SNEAKS OVER THE WALL OF A SHEEPFOLD, RATHER THAN GOING THROUGH THE GATE, MUST SURELY BE A THIEF AND A ROBBER! ² BUT THE ONE WHO ENTERS THROUGH THE GATE IS THE SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP.
 - A shepherd enters through a gate into a walled enclosure where several flocks of sheep are being kept. The enclosure is guarded at night by a doorkeeper to prevent thieves or local predators from entering. You would assume that anyone who would climb the wall was there without permission.
- ³ THE GATEKEEPER OPENS THE GATE FOR HIM, AND THE SHEEP RECOGNIZE HIS VOICE AND COME TO HIM. HE CALLS HIS OWN SHEEP BY NAME AND LEADS THEM OUT. ⁴ AFTER HE HAS GATHERED HIS OWN FLOCK, HE WALKS AHEAD OF THEM, AND THEY FOLLOW HIM BECAUSE THEY KNOW HIS VOICE.
 - The shepherd obviously has a right to enter the sheep pen. The watchman opens the gate, and the shepherd comes in to call his own sheep by name (*out from the other flocks*). **Shepherds knew their sheep well and gave**

them names. When his sheep hear the sound of their **owner's familiar voice**, they go to him. As he leads them out of the pen, his flock is formed. Then **he goes out toward the fields with the sheep following him.**

● **5 THEY WON'T FOLLOW A STRANGER; THEY WILL RUN FROM HIM BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW HIS VOICE."**

6 THOSE WHO HEARD JESUS USE THIS ILLUSTRATION DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE MEANT,

- When a stranger enters the pen, **the sheep run away from him because his voice is not familiar.** The point of this figure of speech consists in how a shepherd forms his flock. People come to God because **He calls them...**
 - *²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are **called according to his purpose for them...**³⁰ And having chosen them, **he called them to come to him.** And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory. (Rom 8:28–30 NLT-SE)*
- As you would expect, the sheep respond to the shepherd's call by **following Him...**
 - *The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "**Come, follow me.**" (John 1:43 NLT-SE)*
 - *Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. **If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.**" (John 8:12 NLT-SE)*

● **7 SO HE EXPLAINED IT TO THEM: "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I AM THE GATE FOR THE SHEEP. 8 ALL WHO CAME BEFORE ME WERE THIEVES AND ROBBERS. BUT THE TRUE SHEEP DID NOT LISTEN TO THEM. 9 YES, I AM THE GATE. THOSE WHO COME IN THROUGH ME WILL BE SAVED. THEY WILL COME AND GO FREELY AND WILL FIND GOOD PASTURES.**

- Because they were having trouble with the shepherd/sheep figure of speech, Jesus comes from a **different perspective** to try and help them. After a shepherd's flock has been separated from the other sheep, he takes them to pasture.
- Close to the pasture is **an enclosure** for the sheep. The shepherd stands in the doorway or entrance and literally becomes a gate **or doorway the sheep must enter through. The sheep have a choice. They can go out to the pasture in front of the enclosure, or retreat into the security of the enclosure if they are afraid.** Spiritually, Jesus is saying that **you will only enter into God's provision through him!**
- When Jesus said, "All who ever came before Me were thieves and robbers," He is referring to the **leaders who cared only about themselves**, not those who were following them. Jesus the Shepherd provides protection for His flock from all enemies. In allowing his sheep to in and out and find pasture, he is also providing for their daily needs.

● **10 THE THIEF'S PURPOSE IS TO STEAL AND KILL AND DESTROY. MY PURPOSE IS TO GIVE THEM A RICH AND SATISFYING LIFE.**

- The thief is a false shepherd. **He cares only about feeding himself, not building up the flock.** He is stealing sheep in order to kill them and destroy the flock. But Jesus gives life which is not limited but overflowing. The thief takes life; Jesus gives it to his sheep generously and without limit.

● **11 "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD. THE GOOD SHEPHERD SACRIFICES HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.**

- Now, Jesus shows his determination to develop the sheep/shepherd figure from a **third perspective.** As the sun goes down, Palestine becomes a dangerous place. David knew this well, as he describes his fights with at least one lion and one bear...
 - *³⁴ But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep and goats," he said. "**When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock,** ³⁵ I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death..."³⁷ The LORD who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!" Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the LORD be with you!" (1 Sam 17:34-35, 37 NLT-SE)*
- Jacob was also a **faithful shepherd...**

- ³⁸ **“For twenty years I have been with you, caring for your flocks. In all that time your sheep and goats never miscarried. In all those years I never used a single ram of yours for food. ³⁹ If any were attacked and killed by wild animals, I never showed you the carcass and asked you to reduce the count of your flock. No, I took the loss myself! You made me pay for every stolen animal, whether it was taken in broad daylight or in the dark of night. ⁴⁰ “I worked for you through the scorching heat of the day and through cold and sleepless nights. (Gen 31:38–40 NLT-SE)**
- Jesus said, **“I am the Good Shepherd”** (cf. John 10:14).
- In the Old Testament, God is called the Shepherd of His people...
 - **The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need.** (Psa 23:1 NLT-SE)
 - **He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.** (Is 40:11 NLT-SE)
 - **“Listen to this message from the LORD, you nations of the world; proclaim it in distant coastlands: The LORD, who scattered his people, will gather them and watch over them as a shepherd does his flock.** (Jer 31:10 NLT-SE)
- **Jesus is a shepherd to His people**, and He came to give His life for their benefit...
 - ¹⁴ **“I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me...¹⁷ “The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. ¹⁸ No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.”** (John 10:14, 17–18 NLT-SE)
 - **Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.** (Heb 9:14 NLT-SE)
- He is also the **“Great Shepherd”**...
 - ²⁰ **Now may the God of peace— who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood— ²¹ may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen.** (Heb 13:20–21 NLT-SE)
- And **“the Chief Shepherd”**...
 - **And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.** (1 Pet 5:4 NLT-SE)
- ¹² **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. ¹³ THE HIRED HAND RUNS AWAY BECAUSE HE’S WORKING ONLY FOR THE MONEY AND DOESN’T REALLY CARE ABOUT THE SHEEP.**
 - In contrast with the Good Shepherd, who owns, cares, feeds, protects, and dies for His sheep, the one who works for wages— the hired hand— does not have the same **commitment**. Obviously he cares nothing for the sheep. Israel had many false prophets, selfish kings, and imitation messiahs. The flock of God **suffered** constantly from their abuse...
 - ²¹ **The shepherds of my people have lost their senses. They no longer seek wisdom from the LORD. Therefore, they fail completely, and their flocks are scattered. ²² Listen! Hear the terrifying roar of great armies as they roll down from the north. The towns of Judah will be destroyed and become a haunt for jackals.** (Jer 10:21–22 NLT-SE)
- ¹⁴ **“I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD; I KNOW MY OWN SHEEP, AND THEY KNOW ME, ¹⁵ JUST AS MY FATHER KNOWS ME AND I KNOW THE FATHER. SO I SACRIFICE MY LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.**
 - In contrast with a hired workman, the Good Shepherd has an **intimacy** with and **personal interest** in the sheep...

- ³ *The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out....²⁷ **My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.** (John 10:3–27 NLT-SE)*

- My Sheep,” stresses His **ownership** and **watchful oversight**. My sheep know Me stresses their reciprocal knowledge of and intimacy with Him.

● **16 I HAVE OTHER SHEEP, TOO, THAT ARE NOT IN THIS SHEEPFOLD. I MUST BRING THEM ALSO. THEY WILL LISTEN TO MY VOICE, AND THERE WILL BE ONE FLOCK WITH ONE SHEPHERD.**

- The “**other sheep...not of this flock**” refers to Gentiles who would believe. His coming death would bring them also to the Father. **One flock and one Shepherd speaks of the church with believers from Jewish and Gentile “sheep pens” in one body with Christ as Head...**

- *And this is God’s plan: **Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News** share equally in the riches inherited by God’s children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. (Eph 3:6 NLT-SE)*

● **17 “THE FATHER LOVES ME BECAUSE I SACRIFICE MY LIFE SO I MAY TAKE IT BACK AGAIN. ¹⁸ NO ONE CAN TAKE MY LIFE FROM ME. I SACRIFICE IT VOLUNTARILY. FOR I HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO LAY IT DOWN WHEN I WANT TO AND ALSO TO TAKE IT UP AGAIN. FOR THIS IS WHAT MY FATHER HAS COMMANDED.”**

- Again Jesus predicted His death, saying four times that He would **voluntarily lay down His life...**

- ¹¹ *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd **sacrifices his life for the sheep...**¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me...¹⁷ “The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. ¹⁸ No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For **I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again.** For this is what my Father has commanded.” (John 10:11, 14, 17-18 NLT-SE)*

● **19 WHEN HE SAID THESE THINGS, THE PEOPLE WERE AGAIN DIVIDED IN THEIR OPINIONS ABOUT HIM. ²⁰ SOME SAID, “HE’S DEMON POSSESSED AND OUT OF HIS MIND. WHY LISTEN TO A MAN LIKE THAT?” ²¹ OTHERS SAID, “THIS DOESN’T SOUND LIKE A MAN POSSESSED BY A DEMON! CAN A DEMON OPEN THE EYES OF THE BLIND?”**

- For the third time **Jesus’ teaching divided the people...**

- *Some of the Pharisees said, “This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath.” Others said, “But how could an ordinary sinner do such miraculous signs?” So there was a **deep division of opinion** among them. (John 9:16 NLT-SE)*

- **5 THINGS THAT OUGHT TO BE TRUE OF YOU IF YOU ARE PART OF HIS FLOCK:**

1. YOU WILL HEAR THE VOICE OF YOUR MASTER AND RECOGNIZE HIS WORD AS THE TRUTH

2. YOU LOOK TO YOUR SHEPHERD FOR LEADERSHIP AND ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR DEPENDENCE ON HIM

3. YOU FOLLOW HIM

4. YOU EXPERIENCE ABUNDANT LIFE AS A RESULT OF INTIMACY WITH AND PROTECTION OF YOUR SHEPHERD

5. YOU MULTIPLY AFTER YOUR KIND