

Sermon Topic: I AM the Good Shepherd (by Rev Lynette), 7 Jun 2020

Sermon Text: John 10: 11 – 18

A. Habits of Sheep

- They depend on shepherd completely for well-being.
- Notorious for following the leader regardless of danger there may be.
- Travel together in large flock, but also like personal space
- Tend to stray, prone to wander away from the flock
- Only chance of survival is when they are with a flock under the care of a good shepherd
- Unaware of the dangers of the world, like the lion doesn't attack the flock but waits for the sheep to wander away and then attacks
- They learn the voice of the shepherd so that when he calls they will run to him and run away from strangers.

Sheep teaches us about ourselves and the relationship with our good shepherd:

- Our human helplessness without Jesus Christ
- Sin's shocking consequences
- God's desire to deal tenderly with us (Isaiah 40:11)

B. Motif of Shepherding

Motif of shepherding is found throughout the bible, right from the beginning (Genesis 48:15, Revelations 7:17)

God chose this motif, because his people are so apt to act like sheep (Isaiah 53:6). We all need a shepherd.

C. Characteristics of a good shepherd (Psalm 23:2-3)

1. Provision
2. Guidance
3. Safety

Sheep feels secured with a shepherd that will protect and guide them (Isaiah 40:11).

D. Relationship between believers and the Good Shepherd

We are the sheep. The Lord Jesus is our good Shepherd. This refers to

1. Christ who gave Himself willingly (John 10:11, 15, 17, 18)
 - He laid down His life for the sheep.
 - It's sacrificial, willing to ignore his own needs just to protect the needs of the sheep.
 - Jesus would be at the forefront for you. His concern for His comfort and safety was secondary (John 10:18)

2. Christ knows you completely (John 10:14-15)
 - He knows our every need. He knows us individually even before we can ask or to express our problems.
 - He calls all his sheep by name and He acknowledges each of His sheep. Jesus knows us way better than we know ourselves; He even knows the worst part of us. But yet He still loves us, that is the depth of the Savior's love for us.
 - He guarantees our salvation. Jesus redeems us and gives us what we need at the very point in time (John 10:27)

3. Christ owns you and will never abandon you (John 10: 12-13)
 - We have and will always belong to Jesus Christ.
 - The hired hand does not own the sheep. He has no real investment in the flock; there is no connection and relationship with the sheep. There's a limit to a hiring's commitment.
 - Jesus Christ does not care for you because of what He can get out of you. He cares because you are His and belong to Him. Christ paid a price for you. There will never be a time where He will say you are not worth it. He has made you His own. He will never leave you for forsake you (Hebrews 13:5).

4. Christ called you and brought you to Himself (John 10: 16)
 - Sheep that are outside of the pan, need to reach out to them. These are the sheep that have heard but not yet accepted Christ and those that have yet to hear of His Word.
 - He wants to reach out to those sheep. To welcome them to His pan, to care for them.

- He leads us out and brings us to His side. We are called by the voice of the good shepherd.
- He stands at the door and the gate of the sheep pen. He allows those that are outside to come in, as long as they respond to His voice.