

“I Am the Good Shepherd”

Intro: As we enter the text this morning, we find ourselves in the middle of a discourse that our _____ delivered to the _____.

A. It was the dialog of the close of chapter 9 that led to the Lord’s discourse at the opening of chapter 10. As we considered the first 10 verses of chapter 10 this past Lord’s Day, this morning we will examine the rest of His discourse as found in verses 11-18, where He identified Himself as the _____ Shepherd, expressing what it means to be the Good _____; concluding then with verses 19-21, where we read of the division that arose amongst the Jews as they _____ the Lord’s teaching.

Let us learn of our Lord by His very own words, that _____ the Good Shepherd; and let us learn why He is the Good Shepherd.

I. _____ the Good Shepherd!

A. If the phrase, “I am the good shepherd” were translated literally it would read, “I am the shepherd, the _____.”

1. Jesus is the _____ and choice Shepherd. He is more than a good shepherd for He is the Good Shepherd who is so supremely _____ that no other can be mentioned beside Him.

B. The Good Shepherd _____ His _____ for the sheep.

1. The word “for” carries the idea of “_____” and could be translated “for the sake of.”

2. What we find then is that the Greek word here translated “for” is commonly used in the New Testament in reference to the atonement – the _____ sacrifice through which we are reconciled to God. William Hendriksen writes, “The good shepherd lays down his life for the _____ of the sheep, but the only way in which he can benefit his sheep, saving them from everlasting destruction and imparting everlasting life to them, is by dying _____ of them ...”

II. Jesus compared the Good Shepherd to the _____ shepherds, the hirelings (_____).

A. They _____ the sheep, hastily fleeing at the first sign of danger!

1. MacArthur writes, “The *hired hand* symbolizes the Jewish religious leaders and, by extension, all _____. They are always mercenaries, doing ministry not for the love of the souls of men or even the love of truth, but for _____ (Titus 1:10-11; I Peter 5:2; II Peter 2:3). Therefore they flee at the first sign of threat to their well-being, because they are *not concerned about the sheep*. Their overriding priority is self-preservation, and the last thing they care to do is to sacrifice themselves for anyone.”

III. In emphatic repetition the Lord again stated that He is the _____, the _____ One!

A. And, He added, “ _____ ...”

1. In the text, the word “know” goes beyond the Good Shepherd merely having an intellectual knowledge of who His sheep are, but it refers to the fact that Jesus _____ loves His sheep with a _____, intimate and sacrificial _____.

B. The love relationship Christ has with His sheep is high and _____, it is _____ through and through for it is of the same nature as the _____ relationship God the Father has with God the Son.

1. I John 4:9-10 says, “By this the _____ of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His _____ to be the propitiation _____ our _____.”

2. That Jesus would go to the lost sheep of the fold of Israel and give His life for them demonstrated just how good of a shepherd He is (far and above the false Pharisee shepherds), but that _____ to the lost sheep scattered amongst the fold of the Gentile world shows that He truly is the supreme, one and only Shepherd, the preeminent Good One. And, there is _____ like Him!

3. For this reason the Father loves His only begotten _____, the Good Shepherd: because He _____ His _____.

a. Jesus will not only please His Father by freely laying His life down without so much as a defensive swing of His staff, but He will _____ His _____ manifesting the power of God over sin and death!

4. Though the _____ be _____ beyond description, though the weight of sin upon His shoulders be immeasurable, though He be surrounded by soldiers, though He be beaten and nailed to the cross, He was _____ a _____ victim. He, the Son of God, freely laid His own life down! No one took away the Good Shepherd’s life, but He _____ His _____ freely for the spiritual and eternal welfare of His sheep!

5. The Good Shepherd is the only one who gives His life for the sheep and has the _____ of God to takes His _____ up _____! Who is like Him?!

IV. As the religious do, the Jews began to _____ the Lord’s teaching.

Closing: The religious authorities had to respond to the Lord’s teaching; and _____! As it was on that day, so is it for us today. What will you do with His teaching? We can scoff like the religious, or we can believe like the man whose sight was restored! Will you _____ to see that Jesus Christ is the Shepherd, the Good One? Will you believe the words He spoke on that day? Will you _____ in Him? That He is laid down His life for you and rose again; and even today calls you by name that you might come out of the fold of sin and death and destruction, into His fold of everlasting life? There is a Shepherd – the Good One, Christ Jesus. Will you hear His voice and _____?

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