

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, April 8, 2018

**“I Am the Good Shepherd”
A Study of John 10:11-30**

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If you could be any animal you wanted to be for a day, which would you choose and why?

Jesus gave seven “I Am” statements in the Gospel of John. Today is the second week in a series through these seven statements. Read John 10:11-18, 27-30.

When Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd,” he’s revealing something about who we are and who he is.

The “Good Shepherd” Image Tells Us Who We Are

With the image of us as “sheep,” the *main* thing we’re being told is that we’re (check all that apply)

- cute and cuddly
- dumb
- completely dependent on another for our well-being

In the sermon, we learned three ways we have to grow dependent on Jesus. Use your sermon notes to fill in the blanks as we get to them.

First, c_____.

What’s wrong with saying, “Jesus, you can help me here, but hands off in this area”?

Pastor Tom said, “We don’t want a shepherd; we want a consultant.” What does that mean and is it true?

Second, c_____.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:10. What did Paul mean by that last statement: “when I am weak, then I am strong”? How does acknowledging our dependency on Jesus make us strong?

Third, c_____.

When it comes to obeying God, what is the difference between duty and delight?

Often sheep will resist being rescued. Tim Keller said, "The sheep never feels loved when it is being loved, and it never feels safe when it is being made safe." Have you ever resisted God's rescue? Why do we do that?

The "Good Shepherd" Image Tells Us Who He Is

In the sermon, we learned three things about Jesus from the image of the Good Shepherd. Use your sermon notes to fill in the blanks as we get to them.

"I am your c_____."

A shepherd who knows his sheep by name has (check all that apply)

- a phenomenal memory
- incredible love
- nothing better to do
- an appreciation of the uniqueness of each sheep
- infinite patience

"I am your r_____."

Read John 10:11 and John 10:18.

From what did we need the Good Shepherd to rescue us?

How did the act of laying down his life accomplish our rescue?

"I am your G_____."

Read Ezekiel 34:11-16, 22-23.

Jesus' enemies were very familiar with this passage in Ezekiel 34. If you were as familiar with the passage as they were, and then you heard someone say, "I am the Good Shepherd," what claim would you think they were making?

Read John 10:30-31. What was the reaction of Jesus' enemies to this claim?

Concluding Questions

Who has the responsibility for keeping shepherd and sheep together?

- It's the shepherd's responsibility to gather and lead the sheep
- It's the sheep's responsibility to follow the shepherd

Read John 10:16. What "other sheep" in your circles of family and friends have yet to come into the fold (or come back into the fold)? How does this verse give you confidence to continue to pray and witness to them?

The most reassuring thing about this passage to me is that (choose the best phrase that is most meaningful to *you* at this point in your life):

- Jesus always has his eye on me
- all my needs are met by the Good Shepherd
- "the one who knows me best loves me most"
- no one can take me away from Christ
- it gives me hope that others I love will be brought into the fold eventually



Close with praise reports and prayer requests.