

John 10:11, “I am the Good Shepherd.”

“Good” shepherd.

- “Good” (*kalos*) one who has positive qualities, qualities of goodness and beauty.
- “good” suggests nobility or worth, the “noble” shepherd, the “worthy” shepherd.
- Jesus is the true shepherd, verses the false leaders.
 - So, Jesus is the true, noble, worthy shepherd.
- This is in strong contrast to the unworthy, bad shepherd - the “hired hand.” Hired hands were in it for themselves, not attached to the sheep, don’t “care,” “flees” when wolves came (12-13).
- Jesus is also real and genuine shepherd, who fulfills the OT prophecies, contrasting himself with the false, bad shepherd leaders of Israel.
 - So the True and the Real and the Genuine Shepherd Messiah is here!

So, how is Jesus the Good Shepherd?

Four Aspects of Jesus as the Good Shepherd from John 10

1. He Knows (4, 14-16).

- The sheep know the voice of the shepherd.
- Jesus knows the sheep, just as the Father knows him (intimately, perfectly in love, this is a close relationship!)
- Other sheep, they know his voice, one flock and one shepherd.
 - Desires a relationship and thus gathers them from all nations.

2. He Leads (3-4).

- “Calls by name” (relationship), they listen and follow, and he leads them out to pasture.
- “He goes before them” great leading phrase! (they follow and know).

3. He Protects (12-13).

- He is always with them, protecting them from danger.
 - Thief/robber, stranger, wolf.
- Contrast to the hired hand, who flees at danger, because “he cares nothing.”
- Jesus protects because he cares for the sheep.
- In protecting, he provides for them in safety, Jesus provides life, life abundantly (10).

4. He Saves (11, 15, 17-18).

- This is the emphasis of the passage and the difference between human shepherds and Jesus, as the Good Shepherd. He saves... by sacrifice!
- Intentional Sacrifice, "I lay it down."
- Lays down life "FOR" the sheep. On their behalf! Speaks to this sacrifice.
 - This construction is used in John - always used in a sacrificial context. Uses this construction about the death of Jesus (6:51), death of Peter "I'll lay down my life for you!" (13:37), of a man prepared to die to save a friend (15:13).
 - And 2x, "Take it up again" has the power of resurrection!
 - All of this is the "charge of the Father" to lay down, to take up – it is his will and comes by his giving the Son authority.
- He loves the sheep, cares for them – so much, he is willing to die to save them!

By his death they are saved! This was anticipated in OT.

Zechariah 13:7–9

⁷ "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered."

- Was quoted when disciples fled after Jesus' arrest, anticipates the death of Messiah, calls him the "shepherd."

Isaiah 53:6

"We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way, and the Lord has laid on him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all."

- **Saved by Sacrifice!**

Old Testament Background – Shepherd

Two leaders in the OT that point to Jesus as the Shepherd

1. Moses (Ps 77:20 and Is 63:11-14)

- God led flock by Moses. Through Moses' shepherd-leadership God did great things – parted the waters by Moses' arm, led, presence, rest...to make a glorious name!

Psalm 77:20

²⁰ You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Isaiah 63:11–14

¹¹ Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, ¹² who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³ who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴ Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

2. David (Ps 78:72 and 1 Sam 34-37)

Psalm 78:70–72

⁷⁰ “He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds; ⁷¹ from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance. ⁷² With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.”

- God chose David, a shepherd to shepherd the nation.
 - As a shepherd he risked his life, protected the sheep (1 Sam 17)
- He was a shepherd to his people.
 - With an upright heart he shepherded them.
 - Guided them with his skillful hand.
- David also wrote the beautiful Psalm 23!
- David’s shepherd-leadership as king, anticipates greater David, a king in his line!

Ezekiel 37:24

²⁴ “My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes.”

Continue looking at this shepherding metaphor in Groups,

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ezekiel 34:1-16; Ezekiel 34:17-31; Micah 5:2-5; Ps 23.

- What are the human shepherds like and what does God think about it/do about it?
 - Did not care for the sheep so the sheep scattered.
 - I will attend to you for your evil deeds. I am against the shepherds.
- What do we learn about God’s character and what does he do to help?
 - I myself will be the shepherd for my sheep.
 - Set up shepherds that will care for the sheep well.
- What do we learn about Jesus? How does this passage anticipate the Good Shepherd?
 - Righteous Branch, wise king to come to save.
 - Be set over his people as one shepherd, the servant David and he will feed them.
 - Be a ruler, stand and shepherd his flock and is great to the ends of the earth.
 - He will bring peace and security.

Shepherding in the New Testament and in the New Creation

Jeremiah 3:15

“ ‘And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.’ ”

- Church leaders are under shepherds after God’s heart, promised leaders and given to the church.

Acts 20:28

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

- They follow the Good Shepherd, called to lead, protect, and provide for the flock of God.
- Jesus bought the church, the flock with his blood, sacrifice – church is special, care well!

1 Peter 2:25

“For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

- We stray like sheep, but Jesus, the Great Shepherd, has called us and we have returned to him as sheep to a shepherd who hear his voice.
- He is the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.
 - Relational, lead/guide/protect our eternal souls, gives us eternal life, no snatch.

Hebrews 13:20–21

²⁰ “Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

- Jesus is the Great Shepherd of us, the sheep. Who has shed his blood.
- He is dedicated to our growth and sanctification, to him be glory!

New Creation - Revelation 7:16–17

¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

- In the end, we will be saved in eternal glory, experience the guidance and care of the Lamb, who is our shepherd! (through eternity, this is a main image/metaphor!).
- **Isaiah 40:11** – “God tends his flock like a shepherd, he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.”

BIG IDEA

Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, knows us, protects us, leads us, and saves us by his sacrifice.

Applications

- Jesus knows us when we stray.
- Jesus protects us when we face danger and spiritual attack.
- Jesus provides for us when we get scared and anxious.
- Jesus leads us when we need direction.

So, when we stray, when we get scared and anxious, when we face danger and attack, when we need direction – Jesus protects, provides, and guides.

FOR THE ROAD

1. What stands out to you as something important or meaningful from this study on the Good Shepherd?
2. Our applications for today are,
 - Jesus knows us when we stray.
 - Jesus protects us when we face danger and spiritual attack.
 - Jesus provides for us when we get scared and anxious.
 - Jesus leads us when we need direction.

Are you going through any of this? How can you seek Jesus, the Good Shepherd as he relates to your struggle?

3. Spend some time in prayer for these things. You can also spend time in prayer praising Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Praise him for who he is and what he has done for you.