



#3: The Good Shepherd

Sheep & Shepherds *Psalm 95-6:7a, Genesis 48:15-16a*

The Good Shepherd

John 10:1-15, 18 (NLT) *“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.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.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,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.¹⁰ The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*

¹¹ *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.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.*

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. [...] 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.”*

1. Jesus wants to be your **PROVIDER**

Psalm 23:1-3 (NIV) *The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.*

John 21:15-16

2. Jesus wants to be your **PROTECTOR**

Psalm 23:4 (NIV) *Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

Zechariah 9:16a, Isaiah 40:10-11

John 10:10 (NIV) *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

3. Jesus wants to be your **PASTOR (GUIDE)**

Psalm 78:52-53, Psalm 80:1a, 1 Peter 5:2-4

Mark 6:34 (NIV) *When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.*

4. Jesus wants to be your **PURSUER**

Luke 15:4-6 (NIV) *“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’”*

5. Jesus wants to be your **PROXY (SUBSTITUTE)**

John 10:14-15, 18 (NIV) *“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep. [...] ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”*