



I Am: The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-17 (NRSV) *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.*

Ezekiel 34:1-4 (NIV) *The word of the Lord came to me: 2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?' 3 You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. 4 You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally.*

The Good Shepherd KNOWS the sheep.

Isaiah 43:1b (NLT) *I have called you by name; you are mine.*

Matthew 10:29-31 (NRSV) *Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 And even the hairs of your head are all counted. 31 So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.*

The Good Shepherd PROTECTS the sheep.

Exodus 22:13 (NLT) *If it was torn to pieces by a wild animal, the remains of the carcass must be shown as evidence, and no compensation will be required.*

Psalms 23: 1-4a (NRSV) *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; 3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me.*

The Good Shepherd SEEKS OUT the sheep.

Luke 15:3-6 (NIV) *Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 "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.'*

Ezekiel 34:11-12 (NIV) *"For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. 12 As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.*

Additional Notes:

scriptures that relate

Monday: Psalm 100	Wed.: Matthew 9:35-38	Friday: Psalm 95
Tuesday: Isaiah 40:9-11	Thurs.: 1 Peter 5:1-11	Saturday: Hebrews 13:20-21

small groups—talk it over

1. When was a time you asked God, "Where are you?" How can knowing that God is an active and personal God who is working on your behalf help you in those times (Psalm 23)?
2. We are called to be good shepherds in many areas of our lives. What is one way you can be a good shepherd in your parenting, business, finances, or health?
3. We are called to defend the widows, orphans, oppressed, sick, and dying (Isaiah 1:17). What is one way you can defend someone who is hurting in your community?
4. Good shepherds make lost sheep their priority (Luke 15:1-7). If you have never started a relationship with Jesus, He is lovingly pursuing you to bring you home. What's holding you back from coming to the Good Shepherd?
5. Jesus mentions five times that He lays His life down for His people (John 10:11-18). What does that tell you about how valuable Jesus considers His people?
6. God is less concerned about our different groups and categories, and more concerned about people hearing His voice (John 10:16). What is one way you hear His voice clearly? What is something God has told you recently?

pastor jamie's prayer requests

Monday: Pray that we can all resemble Christ more today than we did yesterday.

Tuesday: Pray for the schools, teachers and students as they begin a new year.

Wednesday: Pray for Ignite Student Ministries, its students and volunteers.

Thursday: Pray for comfort for those who are sick or struggling physically or emotionally.

Friday: Pray for the decisions our students make in how to spend their time.

Saturday: Pray that students make a decision of faith and share it with their friends.