

Secondly, the shepherd leads his sheep, and they follow because they know his voice. "He goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. A stranger they simply will not follow." This point tells us several great things about our Savior. First we see that he knows his sheep, he knows everything about them. Like a natural shepherd, he knows our needs, traits, weaknesses, and tendencies. By the same token the sheep know him, and they follow only his voice. Our shepherds voice is unique and like no other, and when false voices come along we should flee from them. So where does He lead us? He leads us to safety for he said "he who enters through me will be saved." He leads us to "green pastures" for he said "you will go in and go out and find pastures.

Consider the ways other parts of scripture define our shepherds work:

Is 40:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Ez 34:23 \_\_\_\_\_

Zech 13:7 \_\_\_\_\_

In closing he said "I have sheep in my fold, which you know not." These sheep which he said "I must bring them also, and they will hear my voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd. Who was Christ talking about?

#### **PREPARATION FOR NEXT CLASS:**

Read John 10:22-30

# A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

BY PASTOR ISAAC DE LOS SANTOS

*1 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. 2 "But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. 3 "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 "When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 "A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.*

*7 So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*

*11 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 12 "He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 "He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. 14 "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd. 17 "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18 "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father." John 10:1-18*

Today we will look at two of the “I AM” statements of Jesus. They are very familiar to us in quoted form, but culturally their full meaning is quite far from our understanding. They are culturally distant, because we do not live in a day where sheep and shepherds are common. Therefore we will spend some time exploring the role of the shepherd.

#### Have You Ever Met A Shepherd:

The shepherds at the time of Christ were those who occupied the lowest place in society. They were usually the runt of the family who couldn't do anything else. We see this in scripture as David was the youngest of his brothers, and he was assigned the place of the shepherd. This is significant as we consider the two facts of the Gospels. First consider who were the first to hear the Gospel at the birth of the Messiah, it was the lowly shepherd to whom the message came. What does this tell us about the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

The second fact that we should consider is that God incarnate uses the lowly title of a shepherd to define himself to us. What does this tell us about our Savior? \_\_\_\_\_

Notice also that He said I am the “Good” shepherd. This word good in the Greek is KALOS which can be understood as “beautiful, excellent, surpassing, and praiseworthy.” Our shepherd is “beautiful” because his heart is pure. “Excellent” because no other is so perfectly fit to lead. “Surpassing” because He surpasses all others in greatness. And he is also our “praise worth” shepherd. Have you given any thought today to the fact the “God is Good.”

Notice how our excellent shepherd is identified in the rest of scripture.

Ps 23:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Heb 13:20 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Pet. 2:25 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Pet. 5:4 \_\_\_\_\_

#### WHAT IS THE SHEPHERD LIKE?

We have a contrasting vision in this text to our shepherd and three other characters which Christ mentioned. Let us look for a moment at the contrast which Christ draws.

The Thief: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The wolf: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Hired Hand: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Good Shepherd: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### WHAT DOES THE SHEPHERD DO?

First of all Jesus uses a figure of speech to explain the role of the Shepherd. He said “I am the door.” In that day the shepherd had caves or dens which they used to corral the sheep for the night. Once all the sheep were accounted for the shepherd would lay his body across the entrance of that cave. Thus in order for anything to get in or out, they had to cross the shepherd. Therefore he said “if anyone enters through me, he will be saved.”