



Gracestoration

# Update

"Restoring people in God's grace and making disciples"

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## The Shepherd as Protector

### John 10:1-17

*"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. But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers..."*

*"I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*

*"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 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. He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down*

*My life for the sheep. 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"* (Jn. 10:1-17).

### The Parable

Jesus Christ speaking to His disciples uses 'truly, truly' or better yet 'amen, amen' as He introduces this parable indicating its certainty and importance. It is a simple story that portrays a shepherd and his flock of sheep. He begins by speaking of thieves and robbers who sneak into the fold by a way other than through the doorway. The sheep's shepherd always enters through the door and both the doorkeeper and his sheep recognize him. When he leads his sheep they follow him because they know him and recognize his voice. His sheep will not follow a stranger, which may include thieves and robbers, because they do not recognize the stranger's voice (verses 1-5). The disciples and the others who heard Jesus tell this parable did not understand the point of the parable (verse 6).

### The Explanation

Jesus, again using the 'truly, truly' ('amen, amen'), explains the meaning of the parable. Jesus is the door of the sheepfold. All of the shepherds that came before

Him were thieves and robbers and His sheep did not follow them.



Psalm 91:1-3

Jesus is the door so that those who enter will be saved and will have freedom to go in and out and find pasture. The thieves have only one purpose; to steal, kill and destroy. Jesus came so His sheep may have abundant life (verses 7-10).

Jesus as the Good Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep. The hired hand is neither the shepherd nor the owner of the sheep. He flees when there is danger, unconcerned for the sheep -- leaving the sheep to be preyed upon by the wolf that snatches some and scatters others.

Jesus knows His own sheep and they know Him. Jesus lays down His life for His sheep. Jesus speaks of having other sheep that He must

also bring into His sheepfold; He will shepherd them also. These other sheep, both Jew and Gentile, present and future, will hear His voice and also will follow Him (verses 11-16).

Jesus was the perfect sacrifice that enabled those who trust Him to be saved from having to pay the just penalty for their own sin. His resurrection life indwelling the believer will fulfill the requirements for a godly life for those who will entrust themselves to His good shepherding in their daily lives. God the Father loves Jesus for His willingness to carry out His mission of the Good Shepherd (verse 17).

Jesus willingly laid down His life for His sheep. He took the **gracious initiative**. No one took His life from Him. God the Father gave Him that authority and Jesus died in our place for our salvation and full sanctification (verse 18). *...who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God*" (Heb. 12:2).

### **Good Shepherds Protect**

The shepherd of biblical times only carried two things – a rod and a staff. David says in Psalm 23 that God's rod and staff comforts him. The rod was used for protection and defense against the enemies of the sheep; the staff provided direction, support and rescue.

*"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, 'My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!' For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence."* (Psalm 91:1-3)

We like sheep are defenseless, directionless and dependent. We

need the Good Shepherd as our refuge and fortress. He protects and defends us from our enemies (spiritual and temporal) and provides for all of our spiritual and temporal needs. The safety of the sheep is paramount.

The Christian leader is designed by God to be a **faithful responding undershepherd** to Jesus' **gracious initiating**. Jesus Christ is Head of the body, the church, and all other ministries. His undershepherds are to protect the flock from thieves, robbers, hirelings and predators. The safety of the flock is paramount.

**The Apostle Paul alerts** the elders in Ephesus, *"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert"* (Acts 20:28-31).

The Christian husband and father is also designed to be an undershepherd who **faithfully responds** to Jesus' **gracious initiating**, shepherding his own wife and children. The husband is to protect his family from thieves, robbers, hirelings and predators. The safety of the family is paramount.

**The Apostle John warns**, *"Watch for yourselves, that you might not lose what we [you] have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward"* (2 Jn. 8). Careless, neglectful and self-indulgent undershepherds will face

severe discipline for their neglect and avarice (See Ezek. 34:1-10).

**The Apostle Peter encourages undershepherds.** *"...Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE"* (1 Pet. 5:2-5).

**Jesus the Good Shepherd prays** that God would protect us from the "evil one," *"I do not ask that Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one"* (Jn. 17:15). Our safety is paramount. Christian leaders should also pray for the protection of the flock.

### **Note:**

Shepherding is also seen through the provision of our U.S. Armed Forces that stand ready to protect us from our enemies. The safety of our people is paramount.

## **Plan to Attend the Memorial Day Weekend Retreat**

**May 27-30, 2005**

**Theme:**

**The Sanctification  
Process:**

**The**

**Warp & Woof of  
Everyday Life**

*(Hebrews 13:20-21)*