**The Good Shepherd**

A Brief Commentary

by

Ken Rush

The Good Shepherd

*John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

*John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine*.

*John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth* ***not by the door*** *into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.*

The only way to salvation is Christ**:**

*John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him,* ***I am the way****, the truth, and the life:* ***no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.***

Christ is the Shepherd, and the way of salvation. We are the sheep. Any other way is false, and will rob you of your opportunity of salvation.Many people have their own idea of how they plan to get to heaven. I talked with a man once who said “If I wanted to worship God, I wouldn’t go to Church, I would go out in a field somewhere where I could be alone with God.” Now there is nothing wrong with getting alone with God. But also we are not to forsake the *“assembling of ourselves together” Hebrews 10:25.* We need the Church for our edification, and we need to worship with others. People who make statements such as this man did, usually know nothing about worshiping God. Only God’s way will do. All others are false, and will lead only to eternal suffering and destruction.

*John 10:2-4* ***But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep****. To him the porter openeth;* ***and the sheep hear his voice****: and* ***he calleth his own sheep by******name,*** *and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for* ***they know his voice.***

*John:10:7: Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you,* ***I am the door of the sheep.***

***John:10:9: I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be*** *saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

Both here and in the 23rd Psalm, our Lord compares us to His sheep, because we are a very helpless people, and must depend on Him for all our needs. Our very breath depends on God. Just imagine what would happen if all oxygen was removed from the air, we would die within minutes. We must depend on God for our next breath.

A man who had traveled to the Holy land came back and told the following story about his experience:

He said he traveled for a while with some shepherds, and was amazed at how accurately it followed the 23rd Psalm**:**

*Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

The shepherds saw to every need of the sheep. They train the little lambs so that by the time the lamb is two hours old, it knows it’s name and knows that it is not to put it’s nose in a snake hole.

The shepherds took the sheep to the best of pasture, and made pools of water alongside a stream where the water in the stream was moving too fast for them to drink.

*Psalm 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

The shepherds carry a bottle (skin) of wine, and a flask of olive oil. When a sheep was injured they would mix the wine and oil and put it on the wound to cleanse, soothe, and heal it.

*Psalm 23:3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake*.

They passed through places where there were dangerous animals, however, the shepherds had their rod and staff to protect the sheep. In one incident a small lamb fell into a crevice in the rocks, and the shepherd took the crook of his rod and lifted him out.

*Psalm 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

Another time they were traveling to another pasture, and they had to stop for the night along the way. They placed food out for the sheep, and since there were jackals in the caves nearby, they stood watch over the sheep while the sheep ate and slept.

*Psalm 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

This statement only applies if you know “The Good Shepherd,” the Lord Jesus Christ. Then we can say, as this verse says, “surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever*.”*

***John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:***

***John 10:5-8 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.*** *This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers:* ***but the sheep did not hear them****.*

Notice the sheep **did not** hear them. Unsaved may hear a false call, but the saved will not. The saved **will** hear the call of their Saviour.

*Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that,* ***if it were possible****, they shall deceive the very elect.*

The man who traveled with the shepherds had tried to imitate

the shepherd’s voice and became good enough at it that the other shepherds could not tell the difference, so then he tried to call their sheep. The first time he tried, the sheep stopped eating and looked up, then continued to eat. He tried it the second time, and the sheep again stopped eating, looked up, then continued eating. He tried it a third time, this time the sheep stopped, looked up, then ran the other way. Let me assure you my friends, if you know Jesus as your saviour, you **will** know His call.

At times they put the sheep in a sheepfold for the night. The keeper of the sheepfold or porter, would lie down across the doorway so the sheep would stay inside and a stranger or predator could not enter. In the morning each shepherd would call his sheep from the sheepfold by calling each sheep by name.

*John 10:2-4* ***But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep****. To him the porter openeth;* ***and the sheep hear his voice****: and* ***he calleth his own sheep by******name,*** *and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for* ***they know his voice.***

*John 10:9,10* ***I am the door****: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might* ***have life,*** *and that they might have it more abundantly.*

The thief or false teacher may try to give you comfort, make you feel better about yourself. This is the humanistic teaching of today, “you must feel better about yourself.” BUT they will lead you into damnation.

*John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep*.

Our Lord did give His life for **us** (his sheep) **when He died on the cross for our sin.**

*John10:12-14 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and* ***careth not for the sheep.*** *I am the good shepherd,* ***and know my sheep, and am known of mine.***

He knows us and will call us by name. And we will recognize His call*.* A good warning here is---put your trust only in The Lord! Pastors, and other Christian workers may fail, but Christ cannot fail.

*John 10****:****15,16 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And* ***other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring,*** *and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*

Who are those **other sheep?** Christ here, was speaking primarily to Jews. In fact some were Pharisees (the religious rulers). Any of us who are not Jews and are saved are those **other sheep**. We are not the Jews, (to whom he came in John 1:11), but rather the Gentiles who have been brought into the fold. However, let me point out that both Jews and Gentiles must be saved in the same way. *“and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*”

*Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

*John 10****:****17,18 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.* ***No man taketh it from me****, but I lay it down of myself.* ***I have power to lay it down, and*** *I* ***have power to take it again****. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

When Jesus died on the cross, He could have called ten thousand angels to save Him, **BUT He died to save you and me.**

*John 10 24-30 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them,* ***I told you, and ye believed not****: the* ***works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.*** *But ye believe not, because ye are* ***not of my sheep,*** *as I said unto you.* ***My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*** *And I give unto them eternal life; and they* ***shall never perish****, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*  ***My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.******I and my Father are one.***

*John 10:37-38 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.* ***But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.***

Some object to being called sheep, because sheep are a very helpless creature. But we are that helpless. Dead in sins, we are unable to do anything for ourselves until God awakens us, shows us our guilty condition, brings us to repentance, and then gives us a new life.

Those who are never saved are referred to in Scripture as goats:

*Matthew 25:32-34 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*:

Referring to the unsaved “goats” we read**:**

*Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

My friends be sure you are trusting Christ for your salvation, be sure you are one of His sheep. If you are, you shall have eternal life, but if you are still lost, and you don’t get saved, then you are one of the “goats” lost for eternity.

*2 Peter 1:4-11 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these* ***ye might be partakers of the divine nature****, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren,* ***give diligence to make your calling and election sure****: for if ye do these things,* ***ye shall never fall:*** *For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

**Praise God He did it all for us:**

Christ died on the cross for us,

Christ suffered and shed His blood for us.

God the Father raised Christ from the grave for us.

God gives us the faith to believe, and the ability to repent.

All we need to do is repent of our sin and trust in Him and His finished work.

**Have you repented? Are you trusting Him? Are you one of His sheep?**