

I AM
Week 5- I Am the Good Shepherd (Gabe Cleave)

Context

- Jesus has just had a confrontation with the Pharisees (religious rulers) in John 7, 8, and 9. Jesus would even go on to criticize the pharisees further (**Matthew 23:1-7; 27 & 28 NLT**)
- All of this leads up to Jesus making the statement in **John 10:11-16 (NLT)**
- Jesus is contrasting the Pharisees (who were supposed to be the shepherds of the people of Israel) to Himself (the true Shepherd).

What makes Jesus the Good Shepherd?

Psalm 23 (NKJV)
The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

What makes Jesus the Good Shepherd? When we follow Him, He gives us all that we need because He IS all that we need. He takes care of us. He provides for us (**Matthew 6:33**)

1. Jesus is a good Shepherd because he cares for the needs of His sheep

Psalm 23:2-3a
²He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
³He restores my soul;

- Jesus is a good Shepherd because he cares about us resting and being restored.
- The stress that is in our life is more often than not a result of our own expectations that we place on ourselves
- As a good Shepherd Jesus knows that we need to rest and so He MAKES us lie down in green pastures, and leads us beside still waters which restores our soul (**Matthew 11:28-30 NIV**)

2. Jesus is a good Shepherd because He allows us to rest and He restores our soul

Psalm 23:3b
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

- Jesus is a good Shepherd because He not only leads us, but leads us into righteousness (**2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)**)
- As long as we follow Jesus, He will always lead us into righteousness. It is only when we wander away from Him that find ourselves on the wrong path...

3. Jesus is our Good Shepherd because He always leads us to the right destination

Psalm 23:2-4
⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

- Jesus is our good Shepherd because even though we may go through hard things and low times in life, Jesus doesn't abandon us and let us go through those hard things alone.
- He is always with us, and leading us through those valleys using His rod and staff which are used to fend off predators and guide the sheep back on the right path when they wander off. (Psalm 91 NLT)

4. Jesus is our good Shepherd because He is always with us in good times and in hard times.

Psalm 23:5

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

Jesus is a Good Shepherd because He gives us above and beyond what we need and especially what we deserve (John 10:10 (NIV))

Psalm 23:6

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD
Forever.

Finally, Jesus is our Good Shepherd because He has an eternity of living in His house ahead of us (John 14:1-3 NLT)

- Jesus is our Good Shepherd because He laid His life down for us so that we could have eternal life in Him. Our sin, guilt and shame was nailed to Himself on the cross and it turned He gave us His righteousness and the free gift of salvation

For Small Group Discussion: Which "I Am" statement has been most impactful to you so far?

Opening Question: Have you ever had any interactions with sheep before? What was that experience like?

Main Point: Jesus is The Good Shepherd and His sheep have abundant life if we remain under His care.

Main Scripture: John 10:11-18

Head

- What are some of the differences between a hired hand and a shepherd?
- How might you be able to tell if a sheep doesn't have a shepherd?

Heart

- How do you respond when you hear the shepherd's voice? When is it easier for you to hear His voice? When is it difficult?
- Read Psalm 23. What part resonates with you the most, and why?

Hands

- What are things you do to intentionally remain in the care of the Good Shepherd?
- How can you help bring more sheep into the fold? What're some names God has placed on your heart?

Additional Scripture: Matthew 9:35-36, Psalm 23, Ezekiel 34:11-16

Tips and Resources: *The Way of the Shepherd* by Dr. Kevin Leman



Sermon Series Resources: <https://bit.ly/RLcurrentseries>

