

## ***Pastor's Bible Class    Thomas Road Baptist Church***

Series: The Seven "I AM" Statements

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Lesson 4: I Am the Good Shepherd

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### **A. INTRODUCTION**

"I am the good shepherd.  
The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep"  
(John 10:11).

1. What is a shepherd? One who takes care of the sheep.
  - a. It is the owner. "His own sheep" (John 10:4).
  - b. A son of an owner. "Jesse said . . . there remaineth the youngest, he keepeth the sheep" (I Sam. 16:11).
  - c. A daughter. "Rachel came with her father's sheep" (Gen. 29:9).
  - d. A hireling. "Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks" (Gen. 30:36).
2. Jesus linked His divine nature to an ordinary occupation. "I Am the Good Shepherd" (John 10:11).
3. Who was prepared for leadership by being a shepherd?
  - a. "And the Lord told you (David) you will be the shepherd of my people Israel" (II Sam. 3:2, *LB*).
  - b. "Moses kept the flock of Jethro" (Ex. 3:1).
  - c. "Amos a shepherd from the town of Tekoa" (Amos 1:1, *LB*).

### **B. WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES OF A SHEPHERD?**

1. He knows us intimately. "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep" (John 10:14).
2. He calls each of us by name. "Calleth his own sheep by name" (John 10:3).
3. He sleeps at the door of sheepfold. "I am the door of the sheep" (John 10:7).
4. He sends us out each morning. "He putteth forth his own sheep" (John 10:4).
5. The sheep that belong to Jesus recognize His voice. "The sheep hear his voice" (John 10:3). "I am the good shepherd . . . and am known of mine" (John 10:14).

6. The shepherd goes before us to lead us. “When he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them” (John 10:4).
  - a. To search for good pasture. “He leadeth me into green pastures” (Ps. 23:2).
  - b. To search for water. “He leadeth me beside still waters” (Ps. 23:2).
7. The sheep who belong to Jesus follow Him. “The sheep hear his voice, and he . . . leadeth them out” (John 10:3).
8. The shepherd has a personal interest in my well-being. “The hireling fleeth . . . careth not for the sheep” (John 10:13).
  - a. “The hireling fleeth” (10:13). Paid ministers.
  - b. “The stranger they will not follow.” Unsaved ministers.
  - c. “He that entereth not by the door . . . robber” (10:1). False teachers.
  - d. “The thief . . . to steal and kill” (10:10). Satan or his followers.
  - e. “The wolf . . . scattereth the sheep” (10:12). Christian persecutors.
9. The shepherd’s chief care is to feed me spiritual food. “Those prepare a table before me” (Ps. 23:5).
10. The shepherd must also find us something to drink. “He leadeth me beside still waters” (Ps. 23:2).
11. The shepherd must protect us from danger. “Thy rod and thy staff protect me” (Ps. 23:4).
12. The shepherd must not retreat from danger. “Thy servant kept his father’s sheep, and there came a lion and a bear . . . I went after it and smote it and delivered it out of its mouth” (I Sam. 17:34-35).
13. The shepherd goeth after lost sheep. “If he loses one of them . . . leave the ninety and nine . . . and go after that which is lost” (Luke 15:4).

### C. WHAT SHEEP EXPERIENCE UNDER THE SHEPHERD’S CARE

1. Sheep are satisfied. “I shall not want” (Ps. 23:1).
2. Sheep can rest. “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures” (Ps. 23:2).
3. Sheep have eternal life. “My sheep hear my voice . . . and they follow me, and I give them eternal life” (John 10:27-28).

- a. You must first listen to Jesus. “Faith cometh . . . by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17).
- b. You must become his disciple. “Follow Me” (John 10:27).
4. Sheep are not afraid. “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, the Lord is with me” (Ps. 23:4, *ELT*).
5. Sheep are protected. “The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep” (John 10:11).
6. Sheep will be healed (spiritually and physically). “Thou annointest my head with oil” (Ps. 23:5).
7. Sheep will have spiritual abundance. “My cup runneth over” (Ps. 23:5).
8. Sheep have eternal security. “I give unto them (sheep) eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand” (10:28).
9. Sheep will go to Heaven. “I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever” (Ps. 23:6).

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