

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD – JOHN 10

THE I AM'S OF JESUS #5

Today our study keeps us in John 10 with another “I AM” declaration – I AM the Good Shepherd. From this declaration, we will see some wonderful truths about our Shepherd, about the sheep and the benefits of being in the sheepfold. We begin with:

1. **Characteristics of the sheep – John 10:1-5.** This chapter begins in part with Jesus discussing some characteristics of true sheep. A true sheep is a genuine believer in Jesus Christ. We will see 3 characteristics of genuine believers in these verses – True believers follow Jesus, know his voice and will not follow a false voice – vs. 1-5 -.
2. **I AM the Good Shepherd – vs. 11-15.** It is here in these verses that Jesus makes this wonderful statement. He again is “the” not “a” Good Shepherd. As Christians, we should rejoice that we have a Shepherd who is also the Almighty God and Creator of the universe. In these verses, Jesus will differentiate between what it means for Him to be the Shepherd of the sheep and what it means for a “hireling”. A “hireling” is one who is hired to watch the sheep. For a hireling, the sheep are only a means of income. But for the shepherd it is different – vs. 11-15 -.
3. **The power in this statement – vs. 16-18 -.** We see in verse 16 a prophecy. This prophecy actually is about us. The “other sheep” are future Gentile believers who would be added to the sheepfold of Jewish believers to make up the one Body of Christ. In verses 17-18, we see that this statement of “I AM the Good Shepherd” also comes with a claim of power – vs. 17-18 -. The power is one that only God possesses. Jesus as God can lay down His life and bring it back. He showed that at Calvary.
4. **Division occurs as a result of this statement – vs. 19-21 -.** This statement took the people into 2 opposite directions. There were some who thought that Jesus was a “devil” or “mad”. Others saw this statement for what it was – a claim of Deity. What a person does with the statements of Jesus will determine what they believe about Him. If a person believes the statements of Jesus then they must naturally believe in His Deity. If one does believe in His statements, then they will by default not believe in His Deity. It does make a difference how a person sees the claims of Christ.

5. **The benefits of being a sheep of Jesus – vs. 27-30 -.** One of the main benefits of being saved is what we call “eternal security”. This is the teaching of “once saved, always saved”. In other-words, a genuine believer cannot lose his salvation. Notice in verse 28 that Jesus states – “I give unto them (genuine believers) eternal life”. Eternal means forever. You can’t lose something that has a deadline of forever on it. Jesus goes on to say that we are in His hands and He is in the Father’s hands. This is double security. Since God holds our salvation in His hands, no one, not even the individual believer can yank himself from having eternal life. The issue has always been whether a person actually possessed a genuine salvation. Most people who show no fruit, did not lose their salvation, they never had it to begin with.

6. **The Jews fully understood this claim – vs. 31-33 -.** The Jews understood this claim enough to take up stones to stone Jesus. In verse 33, they give their reason – vs. 33 -. The Jews felt that Jesus had committed blasphemy by making a statement of Deity. Of course, Jesus was deity so no such crime was committed. But for those Jews, who were there, they understood what many cultists have not and do not understand today – that Jesus claimed on this occasion and many more to being God.