

## You Are Known

"Learning Jesus" (The Gospel of John)  
John 10:14 and Psalm 23

May 12, 2019

### BIG IDEA

Jesus said: "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." Christ is showing us that the opportunity for knowing Him personally is not only possible, but truly available. He is showing us the depth of care and intimacy that He means to have with us by showing Himself as the Good Shepherd.

### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

*Context:*

This is the fourth "I Am" saying of Jesus that proves that He is who He said He is.

The "I AM" Statements of Jesus:

- I Am the Bread of Life
- I Am the Light of the World
- I Am the Gate
- ***I Am the Good Shepherd***
- I Am the Resurrection and the Life
- I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life
- I Am the True Vine

Shepherding was a way of life in the time of Christ. This metaphor points to the difference between the hired hands and Jesus Himself—the One that loves us the most.

## John 10:14

*I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.*

There is a sacrificial serving of the sheep that is a part of the goodness of the shepherd. This is seen in other ways in the scriptures as Moses was referred to as a shepherd leader over the people. David was, as well, and David would demonstrate the willingness to sacrifice his life for the people in stepping forward to fight Goliath. So, in a complete sense, Jesus Christ fully embodied this I AM statement as truly THE GOOD SHEPHERD!

## Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup> *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

<sup>2</sup> *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.*

<sup>3</sup> *He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

<sup>4</sup> *Even 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.*

<sup>5</sup> *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

<sup>6</sup> *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

From this passage in Psalm 23, we will look at four things that show us more deeply how the Good Shepherd relates to us as His sheep.

## DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

### 1. The Good Shepherd Pursues Us

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

God is in pursuit of you in the best possible way! The goodness and mercy of the Lord is chasing you, is after you, following you in your life. You may be prone toward discouragement...God's goodness is coming for you. Perhaps your self-image has been marred by what others have said or done to you...He is in pursuit of your heart and cares for you. You don't have to build a wall against the Good Shepherd that is tending to your very soul.

- a. **God's goodness is real and follows us throughout our lives. Can you share an example where you knew God was pursuing you in a way that showed you His love in your life?**



- b. In what ways do you find it difficult to see God's goodness in your life?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. Recognizing God's mercy is a significant part of us living a grateful life. During what times do you find it the easiest to celebrate His mercy in your life?**

## **2. The Good Shepherd Protects Us**

*Psalm 23:5 – You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

Jesus knows His sheep. The protection of us as His sheep is a part of the Shepherd's constant activity in our life. He is always looking out for our good even in seasons of time when we don't sense His work.

- a. Fear can be a crippling thing in our lives at times. The Shepherd promises to protect us in the middle of our struggle. How have you experienced the Lord's blessing in the midst of challenge?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Share about a time when God came through for you when you least expected it.**



### 3. The Good Shepherd Corrects Us

*Psalm 23:4 – Even 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.*

The Hebrew word for “comfort” has a guiding, steering nature to it. And in the valleys in Judah where shepherds would be with their sheep, there would be intense shadows and darkness cast across them. This would require the shepherd to be on the lookout for danger and correct and guide the sheep appropriately, always with a watchful eye over the flock in these most vulnerable times.

**a. Why do you think it is counterintuitive for many that God would correct us?**

**b. How have you experienced God’s guiding hand in your life?**

### 4. The Good Shepherd Restores Us

*Psalm 23:4 – The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.*

The Good Shepherd is bringing about restoration in our hearts, our days, our lives. So much of what we experience is warring against what God desires to do in you and me. The world around us is continually pushing into fractured places that weigh us down so heavily. God’s strength and plan for restoration will prevail.

**a. God’s restoration in our hearts is done so that we would know Him and know that we are His. What does the restoration work of God mean to you?**



- b. Describe a time in your life when you were truly able to enjoy the presence of God feeling like green pastures and still waters.**

#### PRAY

Dear Lord, thank you for bringing restoration in my life. Unite my heart with yours so that I fully realize how close you desire to be with me. Expand my capacity to enjoy deep and meaningful times with you. Amen.

#### DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- [\*A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23\*](#) – a book from Phillip Keller
- [\*The Practice of the Presence of God\*](#) – a book from Brother Lawrence

#### NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

The "I Am" Sayings of Jesus; Saying #5: *I Am the Resurrection and the Life* (John 11:1-44)

