

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

As We Gather

John records that in these verses Jesus contrasted Himself as owner shepherd of the flock with the hired hand who tended the sheep for payment

Reading Scripture JOHN 10 : 11 - 18

Thinking together

Jesus' "I am" statement in John 10:11 is the fourth such statement recorded in John's gospel [6:35 8:12 10:9], and in declaring Himself to be the Good Shepherd Jesus was revealing further His inherent nature.

We can note four special ministries performed by Jesus as the Good Shepherd

- He dies for His sheep (John 10:11-13) – not as a martyr, but willingly, as a substitute for them. Having done so He has purchased / owns the flock and so cares for them. The blood of Christ is sufficient for the world, but is only effective / efficient for those who believe.

Sheep have been described as clean, defenceless, prone to wander, peaceful, and useful to the shepherd

Do you identify with any of the above? Discuss

The church, as Christ's flock, is liable to attack from outside and from within [Matthew 7:15-29 and Psalm 57]

Discuss this statement

- Jesus know each of us (John 10:14-15)

Spiritually, what does the word 'knows' mean? Discuss

[John 17:3 John 10:3 Psalm 23]

As Jesus cares for us, we get to know Him better

- As we listen to His voice (word)
- Experience His daily presence and provision
- Learn to love and trust Him

Share some of the ways you have learned to know Jesus on your life journey?

- Jesus teaches / wants the message of salvation to reach all people (John 10:16) [See also John 3:16]
Early in His ministry Jesus concentrated on 'the lost sheep of the house of Israel' [Matthew 10:5-6], although He, Himself witnessed to a Samaritan woman and remarked

on the faith of a Roman soldier [John 4:41 Matthew 8:10]. After His resurrection Jesus commissioned His disciples to go out into the world [Matthew 28:18-20].

How does your church fulfil this mission? Discuss

- Jesus is alive today (John 10:17-18)
God loved His Son so much that He gave Jesus the authority to make His own choices – to lay down His life and to take it up again.
All life is based on the fact that anything worthwhile has a price that has to be paid.
There are many people in the world who have missed their destiny because they were not willing to pay the price asked

Are you fulfilling your destiny? Discuss

In Closing

Jesus saw His whole life as an act of obedience to God. To be a child of God is based on obedience and love.

To rebel against the leading of Christ, the Good Shepherd, is to work against our own best interests.

PRAYER

Shepherd of all,
by laying down your life for your flock you reveal your love for all.
Lead us from places of death to the place of abundant life, that
guided by your care, we may rightly offer our lives in love for you
and our neighbours. Amen