

## John 10:11–18

<sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

<sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

**What comes to mind as we read this lesson?**

**How important is the image of the Shepherd to you? Why?**

Sheep in O.T. 152 N.T. 39 lamb 64 N.T. 35 Shepherd OT 43 NT 17

**Do the images of sheep and shepherd connect with people today? Would there be a better image for us to use today if so what would you use?**

For a better understanding start with John 10:1 – more sheep and shepherd imagery. Audience is probably the same as in chapter 9 – includes some Pharisees – middle class men who looked to practice more than get tied up with politics like the Sadducees.

Our reading today should really end through v. 21 – if you read all the way through -- what is the result of Jesus' teaching? Controversy

**How does John affirm Jesus' path to cross?**

– remember in John it's his purpose – v. 11, 15, 18.

The word kalos translated 'good' here is better translated – model – as in Jesus is the model of what a shepherd should be. Jesus is the model shepherd discussed in the O.T. imagery of shepherd. "Good" is a label that we put on them.

**What should a model shepherd do?** Psalm 23, 78 -- Ezekiel 34 -- Isaiah 53:7

Know sheep by name. etc. . . guidance – walking with – keeping on path – feed sheep – gather sheep together - work toward growing sheep who aren't part of flock or who don't know God wants them to be a part of his flock. **How does the church do this or not? What could you or we do better?**

Life of a shepherd was not picturesque but dangerous, risky, and sometimes menial. Shepherds were rough around the edges, spending time in fields rather than in the polite political circles.

**Who are the other sheep for us?** Context – who are on the margins today – poor/food pantry – forgotten / immigrants? --- flock isn't tied to denominationalism – how have you seen denominationalism at work? -- It's always interesting as to who the first are to hear of Jesus' birth – shepherds – gentiles!

**What should a model sheep do?** Trust, know shepherds voice – Philip Melancthon said, 'it is Christ's voice the sheep hear even if Christ speaks through ministers.'

**What is the cost of protecting sheep?** Shepherd's life – in Jesus' case – because it was the only way to save the sheep -- .

**How do sheep get off the path?** By following other voices --

**What other shepherds do you think of in Israel's history – why?**  
Moses, David, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob,

**Pastors are often called shepherds – what does this imply about pastoral leadership and tasks in the church?**

**Misc:**

- Christ is the Word of God, the message of self-giving love of God, who did not want the world to perish. The world surely will perish if its inhabitants continue to pursue narrow forms of self-definition, identities based on nation, class, race and gender. The voice of Christ calls out to all the others just as it calls out to us; now is the time to examine our attitudes, practices, and behaviors that keep us safe from the concerns and the needs of Christ's other sheep.
- Easter message continues – Jesus returns to us and will never let us go – Our assurance is based not on what we do or do not do, but on what Jesus does in his role as the good Shepherd.
- Sheep need led – as opposed to cattle who need pushed – Sheep won't go anywhere that their shepherd doesn't go first.