

## John 10:11-21

<sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing 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> And I have other sheep that are not of 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 that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

<sup>19</sup> There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. <sup>20</sup> Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?" <sup>21</sup> Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

## Sermon Questions for Reflection and Discussion

May 11, 2025 John 10:11-21

- 1) Introduction - In this passage what do we see Jesus do? He draws us *through* himself, the Door (John 10:7). He draws us *to* himself, the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). How do we know he is the Good Shepherd?

He warns us of thieves and robbers (John 10:1, 10) and hired hands (John 10:12-13). What is true of thieves and robbers? What is true of hired hands?

We would not follow thieves and robbers nor hired hands, but we often look for goodness other than the only one who is good. Are you aware of ways - both big and small - that you look for goodness, joy, life, protection, and assurance in ways apart from Jesus? When you realize this, that is, see it in yourself, what do you do?

- 2) Promises of Psalm 23 - All of the promises of Psalm 23 are true in Jesus, the Messiah, the Good Shepherd. Do you find this assuring? Comforting? Trustworthy? Have you determined ways to remind yourself of these promises? To rely upon them even when you cannot see ahead or understand your present circumstances?

See Psalm 16:11. Do you remember times when you knew this to be true? You could say it confidently? Have you found it to be true even when you could not feel it or see it? Even when circumstances, disappointment, and suffering cast doubt upon this promise? How did you respond?

- 3) The Good Shepherd . . .
  - a) Cares for his sheep. His goodness is always there, available, and constant. It never flees!
  - b) Seeks after his sheep. See John 10:16. On the one hand, this is an amazing statement. And on the other hand, it is true of everything we have seen and learned about Jesus. Jamie Brown often refers to the initiating grace of Jesus. Can you think of a time when it seemed unmistakably clear that Jesus sought you?
  - c) Loves you far more than you can imagine! See the love of Jesus through the lens of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

I believe this is why Paul prayed this for the Ephesians, "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

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Do you find it hard to accept or believe the love of God for you? Do you find it hard to live with the confidence it is true far beyond your understanding of it? If so, do you do things that remind you of it? Help you remember it? Live in the assurance of it?

- 4) Other - Finally, has our slow walk through John 10 revealed anything particularly challenging or encouraging to you about Jesus, the Good Shepherd? Has it stirred anything within you? Raised questions? Or assured you of God's love for you, personally, in ways deeper or greater than what you experienced in the past?

Are there other things you would like to share about the ways the Lord is at work in or through you?

*I arise today, through God's strength to pilot me,  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's host to save me  
From snares of devils,  
From temptation of vices,  
From everyone who shall wish me ill,  
Afar and near.*

- A Portion of St. Patrick's Breastplate Prayer