



I AM: The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18

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God said to Moses, **"I AM WHO I AM"**; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, **'IAM has sent me to you.'**" **-Exodus 3:14**

God's Unchanging Identity is declared by Him not determined by us

- In OT, God reveals Himself using the name "I AM" w/ other words
 - YHWH-Rapha, YHWH-Jireh, YHWH-Shalom, YHWH-Rohi
 - I AM Healer, I AM Provider, I AM Peace, I AM Shepherd
 - The Names of God were always consistent with the God's Actions
- In NT, Jesus reveals Himself using the same formula (Ego Eimi=I AM)
 - I AM the bread of life, the light of the world, the door of the sheep...
- In John 10:11-18 Jesus declares his identity as the Good Shepherd
 - Ask the Lord to help us understand & know Him as He's revealed
 - Let's expect to see the actions of Jesus line up with this name

This is who I AM: I am the good shepherd: Read John 10:11-18

-This Shepherd is Good because He is loved by the Father. (v.17-18)

¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

- Jesus is loved because He lays down His life to take it up again
 - He was commanded by the Father but not compelled by force
 - Jesus had the initiative to lay His life down
 - Jesus had the authority to lay it down & take it up again
 - No one else had the authority or initiative to take it
 - He was committed to purpose, and chose obedience over self
 - Laid down his life trusting that the command was true
 - That the purpose of saving the sheep would be accomplished
 - That the power for taking His life up again would be accessible
 - He is commended for fulfilling the command we refused to keep
 - Christ fulfills the condition so we can be loved unconditionally

-This Shepherd is Good because He loves His sheep (v.14-15)

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, ¹⁵ even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.

- Jesus loves the sheep because they share a relationship
 - They know & are known just as the Father & the Son know
 - Though we are truly known, He lays down His life for us
- Jesus leads even sheep from the nations to join His flock in unity
 - They will hear His voice & respond & find salvation with Him

-This Shepherd is Good b/c He lays down His life for the sheep (v. 11-13)
¹¹ "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep.

- Jesus does not treat the sheep like a hired hand
 - A Hired Hand has no sense of ownership like the Good Shepherd
 - They take advantage of the sheep for their own gain
 - They take no responsibility for the sheep's needs
 - But the Good Shepherd sacrifices for the sheep's sake
 - A Hired Hand has no sense of concern like the Good Shepherd
 - They turn & abandon the sheep for their own protection
 - But the Good Shepherd protects at great cost to self
 - The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep
- Jesus surrendered His life on the Cross to save us from our sin