

- I) V11-16 INTRO: *I am* the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep
 - a) Jesus is continuing His teaching the He had begun in chapter 9

- II) SEVEN TIMES: In the gospel of John, Jesus uses what is called an I Am statement
 - a) Jn 6:35 I Am the Bread of Life
 - b) Jn 8:12 I Am the Light of the World
 - c) Jn 10:7 I Am the Door of the sheep
 - d) HERE: Jesus will reveal Himself as the Good Shepherd

- III) JESUS: Has been acting the part of a shepherd and is illustrating His ministry from this perspective
 - a) A blind man had been cast out of the synagogue, and as a shepherd Jesus sought out a sheep
 - 1) This is consistent with the Old Testament's picture of Messiah as shepherd
 - 2) Is 40:11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom and shall gently lead those who are with young

- IV) IN V1-10: I shared a few things about the unique relationship a shepherd has with the sheep
 - a) V3 *FIRST*: The sheep *hear* His voice: (They recognize his call to them)
 - 1) 2 Th 2:13-14 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which *He called* you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- V) V3 *SECOND*: He calls his own sheep *by name*: He has intimacy (pays attention) to them
 - a) Ps 139:1-4 O LORD, You have searched me and *known me*. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

- VI) V3-4 *THIRD*: He *leads* them out and goes before them (He safely brings them to their destination)
 - a) Ro 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

- VII) V4 *FOURTH*: The sheep follow Him for they *know His voice* (relationship-Jn 8:47)
 - a) They hear His voice most clearly in Scripture

- VIII) IMPORTANT: Do not underestimate the value of the Bible that you have in your hands
 - a) Englishman Wm. Tyndale made it his life's work to translate the bible into the English language
 - 1) Because the only versions of scripture were in Latin, only the educated and clergy could read the bible. Tyndale worked to complete the first English translation of the NT, and the first 5 books of the OT. Without support for his work, he left England and went to Germany in 1524 and completed the NT in English in 1525, printing 6,000 copies. Only 2 copies survived. The original copies have been lost, with many of them actually purchased by church officials in England and burned. In 1530, Tyndale was arrested in Brussels, jailed for a year and a half, then strangled and

burned at the stake, all for translating the bible into English. His prayer before he died reportedly was "Lord, open the king of England's eyes!" By 1539, every parish church in England was required to make a copy of the English Bible available to all its members, and the available translations were substantially based upon Tyndale's.

IX) AS HE HAS BEEN TEACHING: He has been drawing a contrast between Himself and false shepherds

a) He had concluded by saying they steal, kill and destroy, while He is the source of abundant life

1) HE NOW: Continues to pursue this contrast between the True and the False shepherd

I) V11-12 I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD: The good shepherd *gives* His life for the sheep

a) As the good shepherd, I love My sheep and will defend them with My life

1) This would speak of His death on the cross, as well as His protective concern for them

2) His sacrificial love for His sheep sets Him apart from the false shepherds of their day

II) IN THE OT: Many times the prophets thundered against the false shepherds that were leading Israel

a) Ezek 34:2-4 Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, `Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with *force* and *cruelty* you have ruled (dominated, subjugated) them.

III) DURING JESUS' DAY: The religious authorities were guilty of using the people for their own gain

a) Mt 23:14 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation

IV) POINT: False shepherd's *neglect* and *abuse* the sheep, but the good shepherd *sacrifices* His life for them

a) He *gives* His life for the sheep: He voluntarily loves them and protects them *with His life*

1) LU 12:50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished

V) V12 BUT: He who is a *hireling* and not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep sees the wolf
a) HIRELING: A hired helper who is interested in *doing* the job, but not *the job* itself

1) Because the sheep *belong* to someone else, when danger is present, he will desert the sheep

VI) THIS ATTITUDE: Applies to ministers even to this day

a) For a hireling, the important thing is fame, position, finances, power, or influence

1) The ministry is not a calling for them, but a job

2) Every true shepherd has scars that they have received through battling with wolves

VII) V13 NOTICE: The hireling flees *because* he is a hireling and *does not care* about the sheep

a) HIRELING: There is no personal attachment to those entrusted to his care: He does not love them

1) SADLY: They can look and sound like genuine ministers of the gospel

2) 2 Co 11:13 *False apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ*

VIII) V14-15 I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD: And I *know* My sheep, and *am known* by *My own*

a) NOTICE: The *first* good shepherd statement is linked with His *sacrifice* (V11)

1) This statement is linked with His *personal knowledge* of those belonging to Him

2) Unlike false teachers, Jesus has a personal interest and knowledge of His sheep

IX) KEY: The depth of His love, demonstrated by His willingness to die for His sheep provokes *response*

a) His love is not superficial, but intimate: There is a depth of fellowship between them

X) I KNOW MY SHEEP: I know their hearts, their wishes, their purposes, and even their circumstances

a) I know those whom are genuinely mine

1) 2 Ti 2:19 The Lord *knows* those who are His

2) Ps 34:15 The eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.

I) V14 HE KNOWS: The sheep and is known by them, even as the Father knows Him and He the Father

a) As Jesus and His Father have a deep and personal intimacy, so He has such with His own

1) They have a love and attachment to their Shepherd based on relationship, not sentiment

II) KEY: His love is so deep and complete that He willingly lays His life down for them

a) Is 50:6 I gave my back to those who struck Me, and my cheeks to them that plucked out the beard: I did not hide my face from shame and spitting

b) Jn 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends

c) Titus 2:14 (Jesus) *gave Himself* for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

1) How Many Kings (Downhere) How many gods have poured out their hearts to romance a world that is torn all apart, how many fathers gave up their sons for me? Only One did that for me

III) V16 AND: *Other sheep* I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring and they will hear

a) Who are these other sheep: The Gentiles

1) Eph 2:11-14 Remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--that at that time you were *without Christ*, being *aliens* from the commonwealth of Israel and *strangers* from the covenants of promise, having *no hope* and *without God* in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you

who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, *who has made both one*, and has broken down the middle wall of separation

IV) REMEMBER: Jesus came and first ministered to Jews and sent His apostles to reach the Jews

- a) Mt 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel
 - 1) After His resurrection, He sent them to the *whole* world

V) V17 THEREFORE: My Father loves Me because I lay down My life that I may take it again

a) The Father loves the Son because the Son is totally dedicated to performing His Father's will

- 1) This included a voluntary death, that He might also be resurrected:
- 2) His resurrection makes it possible for other's to have resurrection life

VI) V18 NO ONE: Takes it from Me but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down and I have

- a) This reveals Jesus' absolute authority: No one can take His life from Him
 - 1) By My Father's authority I have power to take My life up again:
 - 2) Jn 2:19-21 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

VII) V19-21 THEREFORE: There was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings

- a) Once again, Jesus divides those listening to Him
 - 1) Some say, He has a demon and is crazy: Others point to His works
 - 2) STILL: Neither group embraces Him