

I AM

Part Four: *Good Shepherd*

March 27th, 2022

This spring, we are examining the seven “I AM” declarations from John’s Gospel to get a better understanding of Jesus and how the Great I AM perfectly meets our needs. Today, we are going to look at the second part of John Chapter Ten where Jesus claims, “*I AM the Good Shepherd.*”

- John Chapter Ten is a continuation of Jesus’ sermon to the Pharisees in John Chapter Nine.

Israel’s religious leaders had seen Jesus perform many miracles and teach with authority. They had seen God work through Jesus, but they refused to believe He was the Messiah.

- Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees, “I AM the Door for the sheep. John 10:7-10

You can imagine how Jesus’ words angered the scribes and Pharisees. Not only did Jesus claim to be the gate, or door for the sheep, and the eternal God, but He called Israel’s religious leaders thieves and robbers!

- Jesus then told the scribes and Pharisees, “I AM the Good Shepherd.” John 10:11a

Christ wanted everyone listening to Him that day to understand that He was the One David spoke of in Psalm 23. He is good, He is God, and He is the Good Shepherd that can supply us with everything we need!

After claiming to be the Good Shepherd...

Jesus listed five aspects of His shepherd ministry:

- 1st - The Good Shepherd sacrifices His life for the sheep. Vs. 11b

Five times in this sermon to the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus spoke of the sacrificial nature of His death (John 10:11, 15, 17–18). Jesus died as a substitute, willingly laying down His life for us sinners (Romans 5:6-8)!

- 2nd - The Good Shepherd cares for His sheep. Vs. 12-13

Jesus already called the scribes and Pharisees “thieves and robbers,” and now He describes them as “hirelings.” Christ says the hireling runs away when a wolf comes, but the Good Shepherd really cares for His sheep.

- 3rd - The Good Shepherd knows His sheep. Vs. 14-15

In John, the word “know” means much more than knowledge or intellectual awareness. It speaks of an intimate relationship between God and His people (John 17:3).

- 4th - The Good Shepherd is bringing other sheep into His flock. Vs. 16

Jesus died for all people, and His desire is for all people to accept Him as Lord and Savior and come under His care. The Good Shepherd wants to make “one flock” from all the nations of the world (Revelation 5:9).

- 5th - The Good Shepherd took up His life again. Vs. 17–18

Because Jesus rose from the dead, we can be assured that we will also rise from the dead (1 Cor. 15:21-23)!

How did the people respond to Jesus’ “I AM the Good Shepherd” message?

- The people were divided. John 10:19-21