

The Good Shepherd Story

John 10



One day, Jesus said, “If a man sneaks over the fence to get into a sheep pen, he probably is a thief. If he calls the sheep, they won’t come because he’s a stranger. His voice frightens them and they run away. But the real shepherd enters through the gate. And when he calls his sheep, he uses their names, and they know his voice.

I am the good shepherd. I know each of My sheep by name, and My sheep know Me. And I am the gate. Those who come through Me will be saved. They will have everything they need.”

“Sometimes a man is hired to watch over the sheep,” continued Jesus. “But this man does not own these sheep and he does not really care about them. He just -works to get paid. If a wolf comes in the middle of the night, the man runs away! And the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters the flock. The man doesn’t even care—because they’re not his sheep.”

“But I am the good shepherd,” said. Jesus. “And I lay down My life for My sheep.

My Father loves Me, and I gladly lay down My life for My sheep. Even though He has told Me to do this, I do it because I want to. No man will take My life from Me. Instead, I give it freely.

And after I lay down My life, My Father has given Me the power to take it back again.”

Useful information

Shepherds have always taken care of their sheep. A shepherd would often spend the night outside with his sheep. He would gather the sheep together in a pen so they are not scattered. The shepherd would then sleep across the opening of the pen. He did this so the sheep would not wander out and get lost; it was also to keep the wild animals out.

Sheep usually stand in fields and eat grass. If an animal wanted to capture and eat them, they cannot defend themselves because they don't have claws or sharp teeth and they cannot run fast.

So it was up to the shepherd to protect the sheep, especially at night when wild animals tried to attack the sheep.

Sometimes the shepherd would employ someone else to sleep at the entrance of the pen. He was called a door keeper.

He was not supposed to open and shut the door for anyone except the shepherd. He was supposed to keep the opening guarded so wolves, lions, or bears could not get in. Sometimes a false shepherd would try to get in. He would come up to the door keeper and say, "Let my sheep out," or "Let me come in." The doorkeeper's job was to make sure it was the real shepherd.

Sometimes thieves would try to get into the sheepfold by climbing over the wall. Even if they did get in to the sheepfold, the sheep would not listen to them because they only listen to the good shepherd. They would not follow any false shepherd out of the pen, because they do not recognize his voice.

We are like the sheep and Jesus is the Good Shepherd. We need to understand that our good shepherd loves us and will protect us. We need to watch out for others who would try to lead us away from our shepherd Jesus. Jesus' voice is familiar to us. As His sheep, we know Him and walk with Him.

We should always listen to our Shepherd's voice. Only by asking Jesus to be our shepherd, can we be one of God's sheep. There is no other good shepherd but Jesus.

When we have Jesus as our shepherd, we are safe. He will lead us to Heaven. Jesus is the Good Shepherd.