

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

JESUS IS YOUR GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10:11 “(Jesus says) I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

Martin Luther, commenting on this verse of Holy Scripture wrote, “In this single little word ‘shepherd’ there are gathered together in one almost all the good and comforting things that we praise in God.” As you meditate upon these words of Jesus, think what they mean for you in your daily life and for your spiritual journey. Jesus, your Good Shepherd, did not risk His life for you merely to set a noble example; He gave up heaven, took upon Himself all your sins, paid their price with His death so you have the assurance of God’s forgiveness and a life that will never end.

This one word, “shepherd,” is for many today a rather foreign word. Few can actually relate to it since it is an agrarian based title. What then is incorporated in this title? A shepherd has one flock of sheep. He is responsible for every lamb in the flock. His job is to make sure that they have ample feed and water. He provides protection for the sheep who are unable to protect themselves. A shepherd literally will put his personal life on the line to defend, protect and save the life of each lamb in his flock. As David said, he fought bear and lion to give safety to his sheep. A faithful shepherd watches over, guards and does whatever is necessary so his sheep are neither stolen by men nor seized by wolves, bears or lions.

With this picture of a shepherd in mind, Jesus says He is your good shepherd. John in 1 John 2:2 says of Jesus, “(He) Himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.” This verse pictures Jesus, as your Good Shepherd hanging on Calvary’s cross going toe to toe with Satan, locked in mortal combat for your soul. Jesus, there on the cross literally, like a shepherd taking on the hungry lion, gave His life to save your life.

With His resurrection on Easter, Jesus is your shepherd. Read the entire chapter of John 10 and you will see how intimately Jesus embeds Himself in your life every

day. Likewise, Psalm 23 gives you in detail all that Jesus does for you to provide all you need physically and spiritually and ends with this wonderful picture “. . .surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.” (Psalm 23:6)

Prayer: Jesus, my Good Shepherd, shepherd me all the days of my life until You come to take me to live with You forever. Amen.

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.

We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.

Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us still.
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