

# I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10.1-21 // January 31, 2021

## THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Bible often uses the imagery of shepherds and their sheep to depict the relationship between God and His people in various ways. Here are a few things to take note of as we see this picture play out in this chapter:

- The sheepfold is a large pen that was enclosed with only one gate. Multiple flocks would be kept here overnight for safety, with a gatekeeper overlooking it.
- Each morning, the shepherds would come to the sheepfold. The gatekeeper knew who was legitimate and would let them in.
- Because the sheep were mixed, the shepherds would call their sheep by name or by song, and the sheep would come to only them.
- Robbers or thieves would either try to trick the gatekeeper or try to get in by hopping the fence and tossing sheep over the wall.

## BEWARE OF HIRED HANDS

Jesus is taking a not-so-veiled jab at the Pharisees, who were supposed to be shepherds caring for God's flock, Israel. But historically, many of these shepherds abdicated their responsibility and roles. And Jesus reminds them that the Scriptures promise a true Good Shepherd to come, and He explicitly names Himself as that Good Shepherd.

Jeremiah 12.10, 23.1, 10.21, 50.6  
Ezekiel 34.2, 5, 12, 15 // Matthew 2.6

In our lives, there are countless "false shepherds" and hirelings that make big promises to care for us, feed us, comfort us, and protect us from the pains of life. From lust and pornography, money, politics, drugs and alcohol, or self-help schemes, these shepherds neither care for you nor will they stick around and lay themselves down for you. Rather, they rob from you and take more of your life.

## THE GOOD UNDER-SHEPHERDS

While New Testament and modern-day pastors are technically "hired hands," they are to emulate their true Good Shepherd. "Under-Shepherds" are to not only enter through the Gate Himself, but also be approved by and recognized by the Gatekeeper. They are to steward the flock and warn against thieves and false shepherds, and to even lay their lives down in selfless service. Likewise, the hopeful goal is that the sheep in God's flock would even see that modeled and follow the lead of their under-shepherds who ultimately follow Christ.

1 Peter 5.1-7 // 1 Corinthians 4.1, 2 // Titus 1.5-9 // Ephesians 4.11-16  
Hebrews 13.17 // Psalm 23.1-6 // Revelation 7.17



## NOTES:

### This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

**1 John 4:10**

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

## ARE YOU NEW HERE?

### WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

### WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at [amber@lifemission.tv](mailto:amber@lifemission.tv)**

### JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at [tyler@lifemission.tv](mailto:tyler@lifemission.tv)**.

## Contact Us

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## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **John 10.1-21**. What stands out in this passage, and what stuck out to you most from the sermon on Sunday?

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What "false shepherds" do you tend to follow after? What "call" or "tune" do they use to get you to respond to them, rather than the Good Shepherd? What truth would the Good Shepherd speak to you that would combat the lie that those false shepherds are using against you?

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### Your Life Mission

Everyone in your life follows after false shepherds to one degree or another, but we have been brought in their lives to point the way to the Good Shepherd. Which relationships or get-togethers might be in your future that you would like prayer for, to help them hopefully see their need for the Good Shepherd in their lives?

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End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Pray for these people you have mentioned and for your heart and plan as you pursue them in love.

- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself** (Matthew 6.9, 10)
  - Always begin your time of prayer focusing on God's goodness, who He is, and what He has done for us. Pray truths from this week's text.
- **Repent and Confess** (Matthew 6.12)
  - Real repentance begins where blame-shifting stops. Your circumstances don't need to change, your heart needs to change. Confess any particular sin that prevents you from walking out what God calls us to in the text, or any other particular sin you are wanting to fight. Ask Him to help you have strength to repent and run towards Him.
- **Ask for Provision** (Matthew 6.11-13)
  - Ask God for new perspective and for the things that you need. Once our hearts are fixed on Him, we can ask Him to help us with our needs. When your heart is begin filled with the Gospel first, your asking will be far more in line with God's desires and will. Ask Him to work in the relationships in your life that you are hoping to share God's love with.
- **Yield with Thanksgiving** (Matthew 6.10)
  - End your prayer by giving God thanks for His faithfulness and ask Him to help you trust and yield to His work and ways.



**LIFE MISSION**  
C H U R C H

**MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,  
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.**



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### SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School  
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

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