



SERMON TEXT: John 10:11

Vs. 11 – Jesus says: “I AM the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”

GREETING: How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God.

After going out to eat at a restaurant, someone might ask you: “Was the food good?” A simple answer is Yes, or No. But what actually makes the food GOOD? How does one person know that what tastes good to me, is going to taste good for someone else?

Or perhaps you hear that Mr. or Mrs. So and So is a good person, while someone else might say that Mr. or Mrs. So and So is not such a good person.

Opinions can vary based upon individual taste or experiences.

What is it that makes Jesus The **Good** Shepherd?

The job of the Shepherd was and is to protect and care for the Sheep.

Jesus cared for the Sheep with such great care and love that He laid down His life for the sheep.

By laying down His life for the sheep, Jesus made full payment for the sin of the sheep.

By laying down His life for the sheep Jesus went head-to-head with death and won because on the third day Jesus rose from the dead.

As we look at this chapter from John chapter 10, we see that the hired hand abandons the sheep. The hired hand runs away when he sees the wolf approaching. The hired hand allows the sheep to be attacked and scattered. Jesus does not and did not run away from death or Satan, but went head-to-head and WON!

**Vs. 12 - The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.**

**Vs. 13 - The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.**

Jesus knows His sheep. Jesus knows you. Jesus knows your middle name. Jesus knows when and where you were born. Jesus knows how many hairs you have on your head or don't have.

And we as the sheep under the protection of The Good Shepherd know HIM by His Words of comfort as revealed to us in the Holy Bible.

**Vs. 14 - “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—**

**Vs. 16 - I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.**

By laying down His life for the sheep Jesus defeated Satan.

By laying down His life for the sheep Jesus won heaven for the sheep.

**Vs. 17 - The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.**

**Vs. 18 - No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”**

Who are the sheep? We are the sheep as the Psalmist clarifies for us: “*Know that the Lord is God. It is He Who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.*” (Ps. 100:3)

Not everyone can agree on what food is GOOD and what is not based upon taste.

Even though Jesus had just prior to this chapter, healed a man who was blind from birth (John 9:1-34) the people were divided.

**Vs. 19 -At these words the Jews were again divided.**

**Vs. 20 - Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?”**

**Vs. 21 - But others said, “These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”**

Jesus has defeated death and death is now no longer the end, but a doorway, as a fellow Pastor is quoted as saying: “*Jesus will force death to serve you. Death becomes a doorway / a sleep to heaven, not the end.*”

Jesus is GOOD, because He is perfect, without sin.

Jesus is God by Whom and through Whom all things were made. (Col. 1:16)

Jesus is Lord and God as is clearly spoken of in the Words of the familiar Psalm.

**“The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul;  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name’s sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me;  
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;  
Thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” (Psalm 23)  
AMEN**

THEME: What Makes Jesus – The GOOD Shepherd?