

# Jesus The Good Shepherd, Loves The Sheep

**April 22, 2018 – John 10:14-18**

---

*“I AM the Good Shepherd, I know My Sheep and My Sheep know Me – Just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father – and I lay down My life for the sheep. 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. The reason My Father loves Me is that I lay down My life – only to take it up again. 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.”*

The man was born blind. (John 9:1) He never saw a sunrise or sunset.

He never saw the blue sky or a green meadow. He had never seen the colors of any bird.

When his family and friends tried to describe those things to him, they would say words like the yellow sunshine, or the green field or the red Cardinal or the clear blue sky. But those colors meant nothing to the man *born* blind.

Then one day Jesus came along. Jesus spit on the ground and made some mud with the saliva, and put the mud on the man’s eyes. Jesus then told the man to go wash in the Pool of Siloam, the man did this and then he could see. (John 9:7) Suddenly after all those years he knew what it meant when someone said the sun was yellow and the sky was blue. Overwhelming! Amazing!!!

The Pharisees found out that Jesus had healed this man born blind, and instead of praising God and thanking Jesus, they criticized Jesus because Jesus had performed this miracle on a SABBATH.

The Pharisees hated Jesus so much and were more concerned with the externals, than with the fact that Jesus just gave sight to a man who was blind since he was born. That is what happened in John chapter 9.

Now in John Chapter 10 we have that wonderful section of Jesus describing Himself as the Good Shepherd.

We have that picture of Jesus the Good Shepherd, holding the lamb in his arm, one wrapped around His neck, and the sheep gathered around him, as Jesus cares for His Sheep.

In John chapter nine - Jesus demonstrated His loving kindness by giving sight to a man born blind, and instead of the Pharisees praising Jesus, they were criticizing Him. We also hear towards the end of **John** chapter **10:31** that **“Again the Jews picked up stones to stone Him.”**

The thing that angered the Pharisees and the Jews who held on so tightly to their Old Testament laws and traditions was because they realized that Jesus was proclaiming that He was God.

In **Psalm 23:1** the Psalmist writes – **“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want.”**

And so when Jesus says: In John **10:11 & 14 – I AM the Good Shepherd.**

Together with other statements in this section such as

**Vs. 15 – Just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father**

Together with the report and words of the Man who was born blind, but now could see: The Pharisees connect these things and knew that Jesus was claiming to be God.

This angered the Pharisees and some of the Jews so much so that they wanted to stone Jesus, as we have already mentioned earlier in this sermon. In their mind, they only saw Jesus as a Man, they did not see or believe in Him as GOD.

This Doctrine which some refer to as The DUAL Nature of Christ, has been under attack ever since.

The teaching that Jesus is 100% Man and 100% God is something that is not logical to the human mind, and so many people do not believe that Jesus is God and Man.

Because the doctrine of the Dual Nature of Christ (together with other teachings of the Bible,) have been under attack, there are Statements of Faith that have been written which clearly and strongly defended Christian Doctrine, including and especially the Teaching on the Dual Nature of Christ. Those statements of faith we refer to as Creeds. The Three Creeds which defend Christian teachings are:

- The Apostle Creed
- The Nicene Creed and
- The Athanasian Creed

These creeds were put together by Theologians / Christians who wanted to give a clear and plain explanation of the basic teachings of Scripture. All three Creeds include a section in defense of the Dual Nature of Christ – stating that Jesus is TRUE MAN & TRUE GOD.

The **Apostles Creed** developed over time, and the exact writer of the Apostle's creed is unknown. It simply flowed from the believers as a Statement of faith.

***"I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The Third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead."***

Similar words are found in the **Nicene Creed** which goes into even more detail concerning the person of Christ. The Nicene Creed was written at the council of Nicaea in 325 A.D.

The Third Creed is called **the Athanasian Creed**. It was named after a theologian named Athanasius (273-373 A.D.). He is not believed to be the actual writer of this creed, but he was a steadfast defender of the Christian faith in the 4<sup>th</sup> century (301-400 A.D.). The Athanasian Creed was prepared to assist the Christian Church in combating two errors that undermined the Bible teaching. One error denied that God's Son and the Holy Spirit are of one being or Godhead with the Father. The other error denied that Jesus Christ is True God and True Man in one person. The Athanasian Creed continues to serve the Christian Church as a standard of the truth.

The **Athanasian Creed** goes into even greater detail than the Nicene Creed concerning the Dual Nature of Christ and in the Athanasian Creed the Theologians who put this creed together were so bold as to state: **"It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh. Now this is the True Christian faith: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son is both God and Man. ..."**

Why is it so important that Jesus is both God and Man?

As True God, we can be confident that Jesus is able to lay down His life for the sheep and that the sacrifice of Christ Jesus has meaning and power and it delivers results. Results that mean the forgiveness of sins for Us by His substitutionary sacrifice on the cross and by Christ's glorious resurrection we have the assurance of Eternal Life in heaven because of Him, as True God and True Man.

What a comfort that Jesus - The Good Shepherd - also became a sheep, The Lamb of God Who has taken away the sin of the World. AMEN