

Lesson 40

Pictures of Jesus

The Good Shepherd



*Jesus takes care of us as a shepherd cares for his sheep.
The Good Shepherd will give His life for the welfare of His sheep.*

John 10:11 | “I am the Good Shepherd.
The Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

John 10:14 | “I am the Good Shepherd;
I know my sheep and my sheep know me.”

John 10:16 | “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.”

One of the most beautiful pictures of Jesus is that of a shepherd. Sheep are delicate animals that require very special handling. Sheep depend completely on the shepherd to keep them safe and healthy.

Sheep will follow their shepherd wherever he leads them. The shepherd always makes sure that the sheep are led to good pastures and are safe from harm. Sometimes, however, sheep will wander away from the flock and are in great danger. When a sheep wanders away from its flock, it may be killed by other animals. The shepherd will search all over to find his lost sheep.

Sheep can become sick and die if they are not properly cared for. The shepherd knows his sheep and knows when one is sick. The shepherd will take special care of a sick sheep until it is well. The shepherd will even carry a sheep that is too sick or hurt to walk.

When we turn away from Jesus and sin we are like sheep that have wandered away from the shepherd and the flock. We are weak and sick with sin and Satan is waiting to kill us like a hunting wolf. Without a very special Shepherd

we will not be saved from our sins. Jesus is our Good Shepherd. Jesus sees that we have wandered away and He comes to save us. He heals our souls from sin and even carries us when we are weak.

Jesus tells us that the Good Shepherd will give his life to save his sheep. The shepherd's hired helpers will not do this. They do not love the sheep like the shepherd does. Jesus is talking about how He would die on the cross to save His sheep (which are all people) from their sins.

In the second Bible passage above, Jesus talks about how He knows His sheep. Jesus is God. Jesus knows everything about each of us. Jesus knows every good and bad thing about us. Jesus knows what we need to remain faithful to Him. The Good Shepherd really knows His sheep well. The Good Shepherd's sheep (which is everyone who believes in Jesus) know their master. All who believe in Jesus as their Savior know about Him through the Bible. They know that there is only one Good Shepherd who saves them from sin. The sheep know their Shepherd.

In the last Bible passage above Jesus tells us that He has other sheep that He must bring with Him. What this means is that Jesus did not come to save the people of just one country. Jesus came to save people all over the world. Just as there are many kinds of sheep, there are many kinds of people. All are invited to join Jesus' flock and be saved. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, does not care where you come from or the color of your skin. Jesus only has one flock which is made up of everyone everywhere who believe in Him as their Savior.

There is one flock and one Good Shepherd who will lead the way to heaven. What a beautiful picture of Jesus!

PRAYER TIME

We thank you Jesus for being our Good Shepherd. Under Your care we are safe and well cared for. Lead us to heaven and eternal life and never let us wander away from Your flock. Amen