

WCBC SERMON NOTES - JANUARY 22, 2017

TOPIC: THE GREAT SHEPHERD'S BLESSINGS

Sermon 1: *The Lord Is My Shepherd!*

TEXT: John 10:1-10; Psalm 23:1

INTRO:

In the Bible, over 200 times, God's relationship to His children is compared to the relationship between sheep and a shepherd, as we shall see in this most popular of the Psalms! And the shepherd here, according to John 10, is a picture of the Lord Jesus, our Great Shepherd!

I. THE GREAT SHEPHERD KNOWS HIS SHEEP:

vv. 3, 14

- Ralph Gower
- 1. Jesus knows His sheep's names - v.3b
- 2. The sheep know Jesus' voice - v.4
 - Matthew 7:21-23

II. THE GREAT SHEPHERD LEADS HIS SHEEP: v.3b

Note: Shepherds lead their sheep by going "*ahead of them*" (v.4), and sheepdogs guard the rear to ensure that the sheep were not attacked by wild animals, and that they are kept up with the shepherd!

1. For salvation - vv.9a, 10b, 28

"Have you entered the "Gate" yet?"

2. For daily sustenance - v.9b cf. Psalm 23:1; 37:25

III. THE GREAT SHEPHERD PROTECTS HIS SHEEP:

vv. 11-14

Note: The sheep is so timid and gentle that it needs the protection of the shepherd otherwise they would stray away and be lost, and be devoured by predators.

No wonder then Isaiah 53:6 states that "*All we like sheep have gone astray!*"

1. From predators - v.12
 - Michael Deutsch
2. By giving His life for the sheep - v.11; John 3:16

CONCLUSION:

- A Famous Actor & Psalm 23!

Naming The Sheep!

"Having had my attention directed last night to the words in John 10:3, I asked my man if it was usual in Greece to give names to the sheep. He informed me that it was, and that the sheep obeyed the shepherd when he called them by their names. This morning I had the opportunity of verifying the truth of this remark. Passing by a flock of sheep, I asked the shepherd the same question which I had put to the servant, and he gave me the same answer. I then had him call one of his sheep. He did so, and it instantly left its pasturage, and with a prompt obedience which I had never before observed in any other animal. It is also true in this country that a stranger they will not follow, but will flee from him. The shepherd told me that many of his sheep were still wild, that they had not yet learned their names, but that by teaching them, they would all learn them!"

- Hartley, *Researches in Greece & The Levant*, p. 321

Verse For Today

"The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not be in want!"

- Psalm 23:1

Thought For Today

"When you can't sleep, talk to the Shepherd. Don't count sheep!" - The Bible Friend

