

The Good Shepherd

This coming Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter – John 10:11-18) is Good Shepherd Sunday

A shepherd was someone who made a living looking after sheep. He led his sheep to pasture and water. He looked after them and protected them from danger. When a sheep was lost, the shepherd went out to search for it. At night, he brought the sheep home, checking to see they were all there by counting them as they passed under his shepherd's rod or staff.

Even as adults, we need someone to guide and protect us from the dangers of this world. We have sufferings that come from within and outside of us. What we need is someone and something upon which we can put our complete trust. Jesus is that someone.

With his opening statement, Jesus assures us who he is. All other possibilities are eliminated. That leads to just the benefits Jesus the Good Shepherd provides for us. Below we have a few examples:

- First and foremost he gave up his life for us on the cross. That means that every sin we have committed or will commit has been forgiven. Romans 8:32 is a great assurance of that declaration, *“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”*
- Romans 8:34 points to the fact Christ's did not stop with his death on the cross but, provides ongoing care for us: *“who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us”*.
- Jesus whole life is completely given over to meet our needs. Jesus holds nothing back.
- As our Good Shepherd Jesus has intimate knowledge of each of us. He knows us at a glance as well as our characteristics and idiosyncrasies.
- Thanks to his faith producing action he opens himself to us so we trust coming to him at any time or in any circumstance.
- Jesus and the Father had a perfect relationship. They were of one mind. It is breath-taking to realize that that is what Christ wants for us.

These blessings are for all people of all times. And, he punctuates it in verse 18 where Jesus states that he has all authority and can do anything.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank for being my Good Shepherd and taking care of me. Amen