

# I AM — The Good Shepherd

**Text: John 10:11,14 (KJV)**

11. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep... 14. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

## Introduction

If you could be any animal, what would you choose?

Reality-check: you are a sheep.

## 1. Why “Sheep” Fits Us

- **Sheep mirror human spiritual weakness:**
  - Poor direction; can't find pasture without guidance.
  - Bad vision; see movement but struggle with depth/detail.
  - Defenseless; protection is proximity to shepherd + flock.
  - Flock-dependent; calm together, panic when isolated.
- **Conclusion:** since we are sheep, we need a Good Shepherd.

**Reflection:** Where has isolation (or independence) made you vulnerable?

## 2. Jesus' Claim Is Rooted in the First Testament

- **Jesus' statement:** “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11).
- **OT foundation:** God repeatedly revealed as the Shepherd:
  - Jacob references God as shepherd/stone of Israel (Gen. 49:24).
  - David: “The LORD is my shepherd” (Ps. 23:1).
  - Zechariah foreshadows the smitten Shepherd and scattered sheep (Zech. 13:7–9).

**Reflection:** If Scripture presents God as Shepherd, what does Jesus' "I AM" force you to conclude about who He is?

### 3. One God Shepherding His People

- **Emphasis: Jesus is the One Good Shepherd**
- **Supporting scriptures used:**
  - Malachi 2:10 (one Father/one God).
  - Psalm 80:1 (Shepherd of Israel).
  - Ezekiel 34:11 (God searches/seeks His sheep).
  - 1 John 5:6–7 (Father, Word, Holy Ghost - these three are one).
- **Fulfillment thread:**
  - Jesus cites the prophecy: shepherd smitten, sheep scattered (Matt. 26:31–32).
  - "I will go before you into Galilee" connects to Isaiah's "Galilee of the nations" light-in-darkness theme (Isa. 9:1–2).
- **Shepherding posture:**
  - A good shepherd doesn't drive from behind; He goes before and calls.
- **Scatter → regather:**
  - Disciples scattered (denial, fear, flight), but the Shepherd returns and regathers over time, leading to life-everlasting "pasture."

**Reflection:** Jesus is already "in Galilee," ahead of you—waiting for you. How will you respond?

### 4. The Good Shepherd Knows You Personally

- John 10:14: He knows His sheep, and they know Him.
- You're not a number/statistic—Jesus claims "my sheep."
- You're not foreigner/stranger/throwaway—you are owned and known by Him.

**Reflection:** What part of your identity acts like you're unknown or unwanted—despite being His?

## 6. Live Under the Shepherd

- **Hear His voice:** survival requires recognizing His voice.
- **Follow His lead:** obedience when the path isn't clear; the "seems right" way leads to death (Prov. 14:12).
- **Trust His leading:** His thoughts/ways exceed yours; move when He moves; stop when He stops.
- **Trust His care:** Shepherd leads to green pastures/still waters; restores your soul; walks with you through shadow; comforts you with rod/staff; prepares a dwelling place for you.

**Reflection:** Which is your current failure mode: not hearing, not obeying, or not trusting?

## Conclusion — Come As You Are; Return to the Shepherd

- Jesus is Good because He gave His life for the sheep; He stands between you and threats you can't defeat.
- Sheep don't self-clean first; they come dirty, tired, wounded, wandering, helpless—but they come because they recognize His voice.
- If you've drifted, isolated, or life "stinks," come as you are—the Good Shepherd is waiting for you.