

Jesus' "I Am" Sayings in John's Gospel

I Am the Good Shepherd

Sunday, April 10, 2011

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Message Truth:

The fourth instance of the "I Am" saying used by John, to reassure his reader of Christ's divinity, is the assertion that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. When Jesus says "I Am" the Good Shepherd, He is showing how He is superior to those who shepherded Israel before Him. His superior shepherding is manifest in four ways. He lives to lay down His life for His sheep; He protects His sheep better than hirelings; He knows all of His sheep, regardless of their location; and He cares for every need of His sheep, even when their needs are contrary to His own.

Message Text:

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ 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."

John 10:11-18

The Good Shepherd is a title that emphasizes Jesus' care for His own!

Jesus' shepherding is b_____ because:

1. His purpose was d_____ and r_____ for His sheep.

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:11

2. His protection s_____ that of hirelings.

¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.

¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. John 10:12-13

3. He knows His sheep, r_____ of their _____.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. John 10:14-16

4. He cares for e_____ n_____ of His sheep, even when their needs are contrary to His own.

¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ 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.” John 10:17-18

Reasons Jesus Came Down to the Earth:

- **Not to condemn the world, but to save the world.**

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:17

- **To bear witness to the truth so that we could be saved.**

³³ “You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. ³⁴ Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. John 5:33-34

- **To give us full and meaningful lives.**

⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:9-10

- **To die so we could live.**

²⁷ “Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. John 12:27

- **Are you protected, known, and cared for by the Good Shepherd?**