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## The Good Shepherd

*Gospel of John, Part XXXIV*

John 10:9:29-10:21

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### I. Woe to the Shepherds! (Jer 23:1-6)

<sup>1</sup>“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!” says the LORD. <sup>2</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: “You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,” says the LORD. <sup>3</sup>“But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. <sup>4</sup>I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,” says the LORD.

<sup>5</sup>“Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. <sup>6</sup>In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

### II. The Good Shepherd (cf. Heb 13:20; 1 Pet 5:4)

A. Gives life for the sheep (11-12)

B. Cares for the sheep (13-15)

C. Gathers all the sheep (16)

D. Beloved of His Father (17-18)

### III. The Good News of the Good Shepherd

A. The Good Shepherd Cares for the Sheep (Ps 23)

- 1 – The Lord is my shepherd
- 2-3 – My Shepherd *Leads* me to safety, food, abundance
- 4 – My Shepherd *Protects* me from death and enemies
- 5-6 – My Shepherd *Provides* for me goodness and mercy

## B. The Good Shepherd is Loved by the Father

Why does God interact with us personally? What motivates God to establish such a close, personal relationship with His people? The answer is that the Persons of the Godhead have existed for all eternity in relationship with one another. It is the love of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit for one another that is the foundation for the relationship which God pursues with each of us. God is a God for whom \_\_\_\_\_ is part of His nature.

Jesus declares: *I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own just as the Father knows Me, and I know the Father* (Jn 10:14-15, ESV). God the Son knows us as His sheep and invites us to know Him *because that's what He is like* (cf. Jn 1:18).

*“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”* (John 16:13–15)

Now contrast this with other monotheistic faiths. All insist that “God” is absolute unity; there is only one unified substance which makes up the Almighty being. In other words, relationship is not an essential part of their god’s nature. So why then does such a “God” establish relationships?

## C. The Good Shepherd Lays Down His Life for the Sheep

Jesus did not die for a faceless mass of people. He died for His sheep all of whom He knows by name. *I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own; just as the Father knows Me, and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.*

This is what is meant when Reformed theologians talk about \_\_\_\_\_ Atonement or Definite Redemption. Jesus death was intentional; He had a set design and purpose. He didn’t die just to make salvation possible; He died to save His sheep.

## IV. Conclusion