



I AM

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8

I AM the Good Shepherd

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. . . 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 10:14-15,18)

Sheep are known for being simple-minded, needing much care and oversight. They have a tendency to wander and can easily fall prey, if not for the watchfulness of the shepherd. Jesus isn’t criticizing us humans, He is revealing important aspects of His nature. Remember that Jesus is the perfect representation of the Father. He is the Good Shepherd.

The Good Shepherd knows His sheep. He calls them each by name. He knows their tendencies and weaknesses. He also knows their needs and knows where and how to meet them. In the same way, sheep get to know their shepherd. Because of their close proximity, sheep can recognize the scent of their shepherd, as well as his voice. The Good Shepherd knows His sheep intimately, just as Jesus knows the Father, and the Father knows Jesus. How incredible!

The Good Shepherd chose to willingly lay down His life for His sheep. He paid the greatest price, so that instead of reaping death, all who follow Him will inherit eternal life. Jesus makes it clear that no one murdered Him, it was His choice. Love compelled Him to death on the cross. Because He chose to lay down His life, He was resurrected back to life again.

“He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.” (Isaiah 40:11)

The Good Shepherd goes to the greatest length to provide and protect His sheep. He delights in taking care of His own. He opens the way and leads them out. Jesus actually goes before us, and we choose to follow. No matter the difficulty we face, He is always with us, guiding and protecting us along the way.

“The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:1-4)

The Good Shepherd knows you, loves you, delights in you. The Good Shepherd is very competent and capable of providing, protecting and guiding you each step of the way. He has already given His life for you, so will He not graciously give you all you need? (Romans 8:32) Trust Him. Follow Him. Stay so close to Him that you recognize His scent and know His voice. Rest in knowing He is the Good Shepherd.

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