

The seven “I am” metaphors in the book of John.

the bread of life (6:35), the light of the world (8:12), the door or gate (10:7), **the good shepherd (10:11)**, the resurrection and the life (11:25), the way the truth and the life (14:6)

Session 4: I am the good shepherd. (Tuesday 8 October 2024)

How does Good Shepherd link to last week? The door and gate? (John 10:8-21 NIV)

8. All who have come before me are thieves and *robbers*, *but the sheep have not listened* to them.

9. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They 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.

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

12. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own 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."

19. The Jews who heard these words were again divided.

20. Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?"

21. But others said, "These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

Discussion Questions:

Who is in this metaphor? If the Good Shepherd is Jesus, who...

- are the robbers the sheep have not listened to? V8
- is the thief? v10
- is the hired hand v12
- are the sheep not in the pen? V16 Gentiles/Equality? (4 Alls of Methodism?)

What does the father expect from us? Was his love for Jesus conditional? V17

Does knowledge and authority of the Father, the known eternal conclusion and purpose for Jesus, also relate to us? V18

Do we **know Jesus**? As Jesus knew his father? V15

Do we listen to him? V8 and know Jesus our shepherd? V16

Shepherd giving life for sheep? V15 Did shepherds do this in the context of the writing?

Shepherd: Provider, protector, pastor. Servant leader. Known friend.

Shepherd who and where -Old Testament and New Testament

The word **Shepherd** in NIV: 70 times (OT 54 + NT 16) **Sheep** 207 times (OT 161 + NT 46)

This is not an accident. It's a spotlight on something important.

Dictionary OT Shepherd (H7462) רָעָה rā'âh raw-aw'

A primitive root; to **tend a flock**, that is, *pasture* it; intransitively to *graze* (literally or figuratively); generally to *rule*; by extension to *associate with* (as a friend): - **make friendship with, herdsman, keep [sheep] (-er), pastor**, + shearing house, shepherd, wander, waste.

Dictionary NT Shepherd (G4166) ποιμήν poimēn poy-mane'

Of uncertain affinity; a shepherd (literally or figuratively): - **shepherd, pastor.**

Small print: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." (Luke 15:4-7 NIV)

Prior to my accident a focus on just 1 instead of 99 seemed neither sensible nor strategic. Having been the 1 out of place and lost, who did not fit in with the others, God's loving leadership now makes more sense.

Father God – the original Shepherd.

Other OT verses describe and confirm this role.

“A psalm of **David**. The LORD is my **shepherd**, I lack nothing.”
(Psalm 23:1 NIV)

מזמור לדוד יהוה רעי לא אחסר:

A psalm/song of David was in the original text -it's not just another added subheading. <https://djchannon.me.uk/david/>



The son of God - Jesus the shepherd ‘of’ God.

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will **shepherd** my people Israel.”
(Matthew 2:6 NIV)

καὶ σὺ Βηθλέεμ, γῆ Ἰουδα, οὐδαμῶς ἐλαχίστη εἶ ἐν τοῖς ἡγεμόσιν Ἰουδα· ἐκ σου γὰρ ἐξελεύσεται ἡγούμενος, ὅστις ποιμανεῖ τὸν λαόν μου τὸν Ἰσραήλ. (GNT)

*Matthew made it clear Jesus was a **different type of leader. A king who is a shepherd. A shepherd, like David, when he was chosen to be king. King David was born in Bethlehem too. Significant relationally. Bethlehem from words **Bet (house) and Hem (bread) for the birthplace of the “bread of life”.** (John 6:35) Crucified in Jerusalem, **Jeru (city) and shalom (peace).** A peace for eternity, a battleground repeatedly. **A different kind of leader for a different kind of peace.** We live in a snapshot of eternity.***

Jesus gives the role of shepherd to Peter

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." (John 21:15-19 NIV)

Church leaders are now called to be shepherds!

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (1 Peter 5:1-4 NIV)

Some key Shepherd Verses

(1 Samuel 17:34-37 NIV) But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.

(Eze 34:12 NIV) As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. (Ezekiel 34:23 NIV) I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd.

(Isaiah 40:11 NIV) 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.

(Matthew 9:36 NIV) When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

(Matthew 25:31-33 NIV) "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

(Acts 20:28 NIV) Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

(1 Peter 2:25 NIV) For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

(Heb 13:20 NIV) Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,

(Revelation 7:17 NIV) For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

Application? Upside down leadership. Servant leadership.

John Wesley said he'd, "exchanged the faith of a servant for the faith of a son". (cf John 18: 17-18) He was free at last. Freedom through faith.

The Sandhurst badge and belt says: 'Serve to lead'. Jesus did. 'True leadership is achieved not by reducing people to one's service but in giving oneself in selfless service to them.' (J. Oswald Sanders)

Christian Leadership -Led by Light and Good shepherd.

(<https://djchannon.me.uk/led-by-light/>)