

I Am- The Good Shepherd

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.” John 10:11-18

“You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.” 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, 35 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. 1 Samuel 17:33-35

We belong to the Father, and that makes us the Son’s responsibility.

Jesus was willing to take on himself not what He deserved but what we deserved.

7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:7-8

Intimately loving and knowing God, like a good marriage, takes work, is character shaping and can be extremely painful.

If we are all deeply self-sacrificing for the personal needs of others, then many of our personal needs will be met by the “others” who are self-sacrificing for ours.

We have to repent of our deep need to have our personal needs met first and give our spouses, friends and church whatever is left over.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two

groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, Ephesians 2:13-15

We have to wrap our minds around the reality that The Good Shepherd laid down his life not for those who deserve grace, but for those who do not.

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23

Our love for Jesus is most notably marked in our obedience to the Father.