

SERMON OUTLINE

'Who do you say I am?'

The 'I Am' sayings in John's Gospel - 4

John 10 v1 - 30

Key Texts (v11 & v14) - "I am the good shepherd."

Key Question - What was Jesus saying in taking up this image of Himself as the Good Shepherd?

1. HOW JESUS IDENTITY IS REVEALED

Again and again in the Old Testament, this is how God revealed Himself (the sort of God He was) to His believing people - as a shepherd! See Gen 48 v15, Ps 23, Ps 100 v3, Is 40 v11.

Key Point - In taking this imagery to Himself, Jesus was saying - 'I am this God!'

2. HOW JESUS WORK IS DESCRIBED

Note - "I am the *good* shepherd" - that is, good in contrast to these so called leaders of the people of God who cared nothing for the sheep. Remember the context of this passage (from last week) - the Pharisees throwing the man who had been healed of his blindness out of the temple. See 9 v34b. Here in this passage Jesus was fulfilling what God had promised. See Ez 34 v23. Jesus was saying - 'I am that shepherd'.

Key Question - What is the work of Jesus the Good Shepherd?

A. THE GOOD SHEPHERD DIES TO SAVE US

See v11 - repeated 5 times in this passage. This was an extraordinary thing for Jesus to have said because whilst a shepherd might dare to risk his life for his sheep, he would never give his life for his sheep - if he did, the sheep would die!

Jesus lays down His life for the sheep - His death was substitutionary,

and at both one and the time this giving up of His life was done voluntarily and obediently. See v17 - 18.

B. THE GOOD SHEPHERD LIVES TO KEEP US

See v14

(i) The Good Shepherd knows the sheep

See v14a. Jesus says - 'The sheep are mine!' See v29a.

Key Point - Having died to give us eternal life, the Good Shepherd now lives to keep us for that life. See v29 - 30.

(ii) The sheep know the Good Shepherd

See v14b.

Key Question - Are we able to say - "The Lord is my Shepherd!"

The evidence that we are sheep in the flock of the Good Shepherd is 2-fold. See v27.

(a) We will listen to Him

(b) We will follow after Him