

## Cost of the Cross Week 4 – The Good Shepard

*John 10:1-21*

“My heart sings of your longing for me, and my thoughts climb down to marvel at your mercy. I do not fear as you gather up my days. Your name is the sweetness of time, and you carry me close into the night, speaking consolations, drawing down lights from the sky, saying, See how the night has no terrors for one who remembers the name.”

— **Leonard Cohen**

Do you believe that we truly understand the image that Jesus was using in John 10: 1-5 and again in 7-10?

Do we understand what it means to be His flock?

### Background

Jesus, faces backlash after healing a young man of his blindness (John 9). The young man is banished from the synagogue and Jesus goes and searches for him. And then the young man is asked if he believes in the “Son of man” and he wants to know where he is that he might believe in Him. Jesus says that He is standing in front of him, and the young man comes to belief in Jesus. So Jesus starts to tell the people who he is, and how he differs from these Pharisees. He tells them that He is the one and only true and honest Shepard who will bring his people from all over into the fold, where there is life and life in abundance.

**John 10:10** – A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I came to give life – life in all its fullness.

### Scripture Reading – John 10: 1-21

- ❖ Jesus uses two images to explain to the people who he is and how he differs from the leaders that came before him, can you find the two images that he uses?

**John 10:2**

**John 10:7**

What do these two images have in common with each other and what do they teach us about who Jesus?

Jesus is also using 3 separate but connected concepts to highlight how he differs from the offers leaders. What are the challenges we face in:

- Becoming more familiar (continuously engaging) with God?
- Listening for the voice of God?
- Trusting Him to follow where He might go?

- ❖ **In Ezekiel 34: 2-5 you can read a scripture that Jesus might be referring to as he is speaking to this crowd of people.** Can you pick up on the things that the bad shepherds/ the thieves and robbers do that might help us identify these bad shepards?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  - f.
  
- ❖ In John 10:11-13 and again in 10:14-16 Jesus tries to explain to the people why He has come. Why the Shepherd has come to live with his flock. What hope and understanding does this passage bring for you?
  
- ❖ Verse 17-18 provides us a 2019 readers with an insight that the first hearers of the message was still to discover, not only will Jesus give His life for his flock, but He will also rise from the dead. He is doing this to follow the command of his Father. He is willing to freely give everything, all of Himself, for the safety and freedom, for the life of His flock. What does knowing this mean for you?

## Our Challenge:

- ❖ *What does John 10 bring to light about the Cost of the Cross and what we might need to give up in order to spend time in His presence?*
- ❖ *What steps can you take to listen to/for the voice of the Good Shepherd?*
- ❖ *What will it take for you to follow Him where He might lead you this week?*

## Worship:

- ❖ Read Psalm 23 purposefully every day this week.
- ❖ Take time to listen to His voice and to just spend time in His presence.