

"God Made Them All"

"Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture."

Psalm 100:3



Sheep

"Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be kept safe. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:7-10

This passage is sometimes referred to as a parable, and it could be. The important part of it is that Jesus was trying to explain to the people they needed to believe what he was saying and they would have a safe haven forever. We have the same offer today. We need to remember that Jesus was speaking at a time when many people understood the role of the shepherd and the sheep. Today it would probably be a different analogy, but the

THE LAMB OF GOD died FOR OUR SINS. HALLELUJAH What a SAVIOR.

Same gift of safety or eternal life. He had already told them he was the doorkeeper and the sheep hear his voice and he calls each one by name and leads them. It is a wonderful feeling to know that God knows each of us as an individual just as a Good Shepherd knows each one of his sheep.

I find great satisfaction in being the "dumb sheep" that follows. I realize that following the Shepherd brings joy but also responsibility and work.

We are told about being known in a beautiful passage from Luke 15:4-7. Christ asks the people *"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? 5 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."*

God is our Shepherd if we allow him to be, but sometimes we wander like the one mentioned above. We know that He is always there. He knows we are human and knows everything about us because He created us just as he did the sheep.

When David approached Saul and told him he was ready to go kill Goliath, David compared his expertise to keeping his father's sheep. He said *"Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 3I 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. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."* 1 Samuel 17:34

Saul blessed him and we all know the story of David killing the giant Goliath with a sling shot and one stone. We need to have that faith. Our God will rescue us, he will guide us as the shepherd guides his sheep and rescues them, but we have to ask to be rescued.

I think the most difficult thing about our faith sometimes is that we can't do anything to earn it. It is free, but we also have an obligation. If we accept our faith as a free gift, we need to make sure others know of this free gift also. We will want to do that if we truly believe.

"KNOW ye that the LORD He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; We are HIS people, and the SHEEP OF HIS PASTURE."

Psalm 100:3

Pass It On

"I wish for you my friend
This happiness that I've found
You can depend on Him
It matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountain top
I want the world to know
The Lord of Love
Has come to me
I want to pass it on."

A favorite camp song of mine printed above puts it very nicely.

The song was written by Kurt Kaiser and he said one day his wife said something about shouting their faith from the mountaintop and he was thinking about a spark starting a fire. Within about 20 minutes he had written the lyrics but he never thought it would have such a long reaching message. He said "I am always amazed how the Lord can take a little song and use it to reach so many people.

Those of you who grew up in a child's Sunday school probably remember little songs that you sang. At the time they meant nothing, but their words and messages have stayed with you through your life. An example of that for me is "This Little Light of Mine." Today its words mean so much in that I am to let God's love shine through me and not hide it when I am around certain people. I can't deny it, but I need to live my life and let my light shine so that others see His love in the way I act and what and when I am willing to speak up for my faith.

Isn't that how the shepherd works. Just by watching out for us, by following after one sheep when it goes astray. That is the wonderful gift we have if we allow ourselves to be the sheep in His pasture. As the song states it doesn't matter where we are bound, he will take us in his fold. Please let us shout it from the mountain top. Let us not hide it under a bushel. Let's be the sheep who follows willingly and shows our love for our Shepherd.

*Accept Nothing Less
than Jesus!*

Be satisfied with nothing less
than the Lord Jesus abiding in your life.

He is the Light of the World.
He is the Life of the World.
He is your Savior,
your Lord, and
your Friend.

He has promised to come to you
and abide with you.

Then accept nothing less than
Jesus in your life.
Invite Him into your heart.
Embrace Him.
Talk often with your Friend, and

His Light Will Fill Your Life!

Prayer:

"There were ninety and nine that safely lay
In the shelter of the flock,
But one was out on the hills away,
Far off in the cold and dark;
Away on the mountains wild and bare,
Away from the tender Shepherd's care."*

This was written a long time ago and is still true today. Help me Oh Lord, to listen to your call and willingly be a part of the fold. Amen.

• by D. L. Moody

1. Why are sheep called dumb?
2. Is it important that they stay together? Why
3. Does that apply to us today also?
4. What responsibility do we have as a part of "the fold" of God?
5. Are you ever called to be a shepherd? Under what circumstances?

Sheep are gregarious and often stay together for protection. They take care of their young. They are also destructive and make bad decisions. Some times they follow aimlessly, We can assign all these characteristics to humans. Are we sheep? I think we fit the description very well.

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George Washington, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America, declared: "If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter."