

I AM the Good Shepherd
John 10:11-18

Ego Eimi

- There are two ways to say the phrase “I am” in the Greek language.
- The first is the word *Ego*.
- This is where we get the English word *ego* which is our personality or personal identity.
- The other way to say I am in Greek is the word *Eimi*.
- To us this seems redundant that Jesus would say “I AM, I AM”.
- This is not a translation error or Jesus misspeaking. It is direct and intentional.
- The only other time that this phrasing is seen is in the Greek Septuagint, which is the Greek Old Testament.
- Exodus 3:14
- Jesus is declaring His divinity with this statement.
- Jesus is declaring His Heavenly origin with this statement.
- Jesus is declaring His authority with this statement.

v. 11-15

The Good Shepherd

- Jesus jumps back to His original metaphor.
- Before He claims to be the Good Shepherd He qualifies His statement by repeating the Father’s words in Exodus 3:14.
- Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, doesn’t just risk His life to save the sheep, He lays down His life to save the sheep.

- Jesus did not come to earth to simply defend the sheep or protect the sheep, He came to lay His life down so that His sheep would have eternal life.
- Quite the stark contrast to the hireling that Jesus talks about in verses 12 and 13.

For the Sheep

- Notice the language that is used here.
- The Good Shepherd lays down His life for THE sheep.
- He doesn't lay down His life for everyone but rather the sheep.
- There are two types of people listed in Scripture: sheep and goats.
- Sheep are those whom the Father gives to the Son and the Son will never lose them.
- They will receive mercy by the merit of Christ and His finished work.
- Goats are those who will remain in their sin and receive their just penalty.
- Matthew 25:31-46

The Hireling

- The hireling runs at the first sign of trouble because he cares nothing for the sheep. He doesn't own them, there's no financial recourse for him if they die, so he runs.
- The shepherd would defend his sheep because He loves them.
- Jesus says that He knows His sheep by name just as the Father knows Him and He knows the Father.
- Imagine the intimate relationship that this is. Jesus and the Father are inseparable, coeternal, make up $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Triune Godhead yet Jesus says He knows His sheep just like He knows the Father!

Other Sheep

- Jesus tells us that He has other sheep that are not of this flock.
- What is He talking about?
- Mormons believe that Jesus was talking about the Native American Indians. That He would visit them and proclaim to them that He is the Christ.
- This is false.
- Jesus was talking to a group of Jews.
- The Messiah was to be for the Jews.
- Jesus tells them that He must go also to the Gentiles and make them His people.
- He would create one flock and He would be its shepherd.
- The idea that Jews and Gentiles make up separate nations is not Biblical.
- Those who are in Christ are part of the new flock. One flock. One nation. With one Shepherd.

Attributes of the shepherd

- 1) He doesn't need to climb over the wall.
- 2) He calls His sheep.
- 3) His sheep know His voice and follow Him.
- 4) He leads His sheep out into pasture therefore providing for and protecting them.

While we tend to insert ourselves into the Scriptures it would not be wise to do so here. We must not mistake this passage to be about the sheep...it is about the Shepherd! It is about Christ! It is about His faithfulness, His willingness to die for His sheep, His supremacy over His sheep, and His intimate relationship with His sheep.

Go through Psalm 23

Elements of the Shepherd

- 1) He makes me lie down in green pastures.
 - What is found in a green pasture?
 - Food for the sheep, wide open spaces for the sheep to move, rest for the sheep.
- 2) He leads me beside the still waters.
 - Sheep need to drink water but they aren't skillful swimmers.
 - The wool would keep them from moving effectively and they would be a drowning risk.
 - Raging waters are a danger to the sheep.
- 3) He restores.
 - His presence gives the deep kind of rest that only peace can bring.
 - The sheep trust Him implicitly.
- 4) He leads in the paths of righteousness.
 - The shepherd leads into righteousness so that His name will be glorified.
 - It also keeps the sheep on the right path and prevents them from wandering off into danger.

The aforementioned notes here show the great care and love that the shepherd has for the sheep.

The Lord lovingly cares for His people.

5) The valley of the shadow of death.

- The Lord Himself leads through the danger.
- He does not simply show the way and then expect the sheep to walk through dangerous areas.
- He leads them Himself and they trust Him because He is with them.

6) The Rod and the Staff

- The rod and the staff hold dual significance.
- They provide protection from outside threats but they also provide correction when necessary.
- The shepherd loves His sheep but is more concerned with the sheep's well-being than their happiness.
- They see the rod and staff as something to be respected and cherished not feared.

7) Banquet Table

- This is a picture of victory and celebration.
- The shepherd doesn't just provide a table for the sheep but He does it in the face of the enemy.
- This shows that the shepherd has triumphed over the enemy.

8) Goodness and Mercy

- The Lord's goodness and mercy are poured out on His sheep for the entirety of their earthly lives and then they will enjoy eternity in His presence and loving gaze.

Sovereignty Over Life and Death

- Jesus declares here that no one takes His life from Him.
- He lays it down freely.
- God the Father would also be in the “no one” category.
- The Son, out of love and obedience to His Father, willingly laid His life down for His sheep.
- This is also a claim to divinity.
- God is the giver and taker of life.
- Jesus tells us that He is tasked with laying down His life and then taking it up again.
- Jesus was not a victim of the Jews or Romans or anyone else.
- He freely offered up Himself as a ransom for His sheep.

Points to remember:

- 1) Jesus is the Shepherd of all believers
- 2) Jesus is the only door to salvation
- 3) Jesus will keep all who belong to Him