

## Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

March 31, 2021

### John 10: 11 - 18

**11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. 12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. 13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. 15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. 17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.**

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Pastor Tom began by reading the entire passage for tonight, noting that when Jesus is speaking of Himself He uses the term 'The Good Shepherd' and when He refers to pastors, He uses the term 'shepherd'.

A quick review and wrap up of last week's last verses:

\*In verse 3 the porter refers to the Holy Spirit who opens the door of our hearts to accept Jesus.

\*Additionally, verse 10 is addressing the devil, the thief, and his desire is to steal, kill and destroy God's blessing for us but Jesus came to give us life abundantly.

### \*Deuteronomy 11: 18 - 28

***26 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; 27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: 28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord***

*your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.*

\*Leading up to these verses, Moses had told the people about the law of God...to lay them up in their hearts, bind them on their foreheads, teach their children and write them on their doorposts and gates (like a plaque) so that their days would be multiplied.

\*Then came this clear distinction between God's blessings, if we obey His law and the curses, if we do not.

\*These words certainly speak to our country today as well as our own families and churches. God cannot bless us when we are not obeying or following His laws.

For example - Pastor Tony Evans stated: "Don't get yourself into a financial bind and then ask God to get you out of it."

Pastor Tom added - You don't have to be happy all the time but you can still have the joy of the Lord (which is our strength). Material things don't bring joy, only momentary happiness.

\*Be careful not to take God's blessings for granted by not giving God the credit for giving you blessings.

### **Verse 11**

*I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

\*Here we see that distinction between the Good Shepherd and the shepherd: the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep (us). This starts out as a picture of calvary.

### **Verses 12 and 13**

*But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. 13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.*

\*Now Jesus talks about the shepherd: he is invested in the sheep because he owns them.

\*However, the hireling is someone who is hired to look after the sheep but usually does not do the same work as the shepherd. They have no ownership and are not invested in the flock and even may run when the wolf comes around. The result: the sheep scatter or are killed.

\*In reference to the business world, good workers are difficult to find based on the same principle: they do not own the business and so are not invested in it.

\*There are some shepherds (local pastors) who want to be called shepherd but are really just hirelings. (Karen Eppley's friend who needed a pastor to do a funeral but was refused is an example of this.)

Pastor Tom explained if someone is the shepherd of a church, he/she has to love the sheep (people), even the unlovable ones. Jesus says love them anyway as a servant not as a hireling. When Pastor Tom began his journey in the ministry, his mom told him just love the people and they'll love you back!

\*If a shepherd doesn't come through the door of Jesus Christ, then he/she won't take very good care of the sheep. Jesus puts the call on the shepherd. Some think they have the call but they don't. It was their call, not from Jesus. (Pastor Tom tied in asking people to pray about doing things like Men's Ministry devotions, Children's Messages, singing... Just answer God's call)

### **Verse 14**

*I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*

\*The Good Shepherd knows (loves) His sheep and he knows his shepherds (pastors). His love is unconditional - you can make mistakes and Jesus still loves you.

## **Verse 15**

*As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

\*The Cross was the Will of the Father. The suffering was the will of God.

Luke 22:42 - Jesus' words in the Garden of Gethsemane

*Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

\*Jesus lays down His life for His Sheep (us).

## **Verse 16**

*And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*

\*If you were not Jewish, then you were Gentile. We are the other sheep, the Gentiles. Jesus looked down through the ages and said, "(your name), I'll go to the cross for you!" Because scripture says while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...that's the Good News!

\*Also Paul said there was no such thing as Jews or Greeks, but that we were all sinners in need of a Savior.

\*And guess who gets the curse? The Jews!

## **Verse 17**

*Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.*

\*Because of the love of the Father, Jesus laid down His life, willingly gave it up. But He not only willingly gave His life, He also had the power and authority from God to take His life back again - through the Resurrection on Easter! For if there was not a risen Christ there is no sense to Christianity. No other religion offers this! But many of us don't get this. All have to go

through the door (one way) and through that door is a life more abundant...we are not caged in sin but we are forgiven. And Jesus walks along with us on the darkest of roads.

\*Yet there is a thief that wants you to not believe. What do we do with that thief? Jesus says to resist the devil in the name of Jesus. We do not have to defeat him because Jesus has already won that battle for us. And in order to resist the devil, we must answer him with the Word ( as we covered in the very beginning of this lesson). We do this because the devil cannot stand against the Truth of God.

### **Verse 18**

*No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

\*No one killed Jesus, not even the devil. He gave His life and He took it back again.

[Pastor Jon would have added this about the last sentence: Jesus can only do these things because the Father commanded Him to. God, the Father, gave Jesus, the Son, the authority to give up His life and to take it back again through the Resurrection. The Son will always submit to the authority of His Father]

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Good-bye Everyone!

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