Unwrapping the Names of Jesus



Jesus - The Good Shepherd



¹"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber.



²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.



³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.



⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.



⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."



⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.



⁷So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.



⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.



⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.



¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.



¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.



¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.



¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.



¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,



¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.



¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.



¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.



¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."



Jesus - The Good Shepherd



1: Jesus is <u>the only way</u> you come into the flock of God (John 10:7-10)



⁷So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.



⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.



⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.



¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.





Sheepfolds



photo credit: sbcdover.org & entrustingfaithfulmen.com Having taught in Israel, two illustrations have become seared in my memory concerning eastern shepherds and their sheep. Of the two pictures, one is that of a shepherd leading his sheep through the city of Jerusalem just outside the Jaffa Gate. Cars were whizzing by while the shepherd sang and gently whistled to his sheep, and they dutifully followed him despite all of the bustling traffic nearby. The other picture is that of an early morning with the Bedouins when the shepherds began to lead their sheep out of the sheepfold, which contained the combined flocks of four shepherds. As each shepherd took his turn and began to sing and call his sheep, they dutifully separated from the larger flock and began to follow him to the hills for their daylight feeding (cf. 10:3-4). Such contemporary pictures of the intimate relationship between shepherd and sheep can provide us with the framework of thinking about the great shepherd texts of the Bible:

New American Commentary, Borchert, G. L. (1996). John 1-11 (Vol. 25A, p. 330)

John 14:6 (ESV)

⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



2: Jesus <u>laid down His life</u> so you could become one of His sheep. (Jn 10:11-13, 17-18)



¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.



¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.



¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.



¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.



¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."



3: Jesus knows you intimately (John 10:14-15)



¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,



¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.



John 10:3 (ESV)

³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.



4: Jesus expects you to <u>listen</u> to Him and <u>follow</u> Him (John 10:3-5)



John 10:3-5 (ESV)

³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.



John 10:3-5 (ESV)

⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.



John 10:3-5 (ESV)

⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."



Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,



Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



Jesus - The Good Shepherd

