

24 Re-Think of Gospel

INTRODUCTION | The true shepherd

As Scripture proclaims Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, let's look at what kind of person He is. First, Christ is the shepherd that knows us. Let's think about why it is necessary for the shepherd to know his sheep. Second, let us look at Jesus as the true shepherd and what he means when he says that he gives his life for the sheep. If there is such a person that can their life to us in this way, that radically changes our identity. Because of that, lastly let's look at what exactly is so good about this shepherd.

SCRIPTURE | John 10:1-18

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. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He 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. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And 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. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No 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."

QUESTIONS |

- 1: In these verses how does Jesus represent himself? What kind of care does the shepherd provide for the sheep?
- 2: (Verse 14) according to Christ, of what benefit is it to the sheep to be known by the shepherd? As for you yourself, what do you think about being known by the good shepherd, Christ?
- 3: What is said about others who are not the true or good shepherd? What do fake shepherds do among the sheep? What is the killing or attacking of the sheep?
- 4: (verses 11,15) What is the "big" thing that the good shepherd does for the sheep? What is the benefit of good shepherd's action for the sheep? What do the sheep receive? (Ref Luke 15:4-7)

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

5: How do the sheep respond to the good shepherd? Recently, how has your relationship been with Christ? Are there ways in which you would like to see your relationship improve? Share and pray with each other.

REFERENCES |

Luke 15:4-7

4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

PRAYER |

- Let us lift up our praise to Christ, the one who is the good shepherd who threw away his life for the us His sheep. If you are in Christ you are perfectly known by the good shepherd. Because you are known, you can have peace, hope, joy love, patience, all the fruits of the Spirit. Let's pray in accord with God's desire and command.
- Repent and ask for forgiveness in the ways you have wandered from the good shepherd. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only true shepherd and he alone can be your sure hope. Put your faith in him and pray that He would be your true desire.

UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

This week and next week's events

Community group leader meeting (6), Grace City gospel choir(6), Lunchtime meeting (8-marunouchi, 9-Otemachi), Yukata party (11 @Kachidoki The Tokyo Towers Sky Lounge), Community Group Leader training (11), Grace City gospel choir (13), Lunchtime meeting (15- kasumigaseki, 16-Otemachi), Obento project (18), Ishinomaki volunteer trip (17-19)