

## THE GOOD SHEPHERD

February 17th, 2018. Ben Skeat. John 10:1-18  
Finding Jesus, Finding Life, part 31

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**Big Idea:** Jesus is the Good Shepherd; the one who calls us to himself so that we can follow him into abundant life under his care, gathered together by the work of the cross.

<sup>2</sup> *The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.* <sup>3</sup> *The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.*

1) Jesus **CALLS** us to himself so that we can follow

*"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me" v14*

- He's the rightful shepherd (v2, v8) who is staking a claim on every aspect of our lives
- He knows us intimately and invites us to the same kind of intimate knowledge of him (v15)

**Issue for reflection:** What voices have authority in your life, and what are they saying? How does what they say about the world and the kind of life that they describe compare to the words of Jesus? (Psalm 23, Matt 5:1-11, John 13:34-35)

<sup>7</sup> *Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep."* <sup>8</sup> *All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.* <sup>9</sup> *I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.* <sup>10</sup> *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

2) We find abundant life only within Jesus **CARE**

- Through him, and only him, we have access to life with God as his people under his care.
- Life to the full ("abundant life")= "they will come in and go out, and find pasture". Safety, provision, and perfect peace
- His care extends to and is experienced most profoundly) in the darkest times of our lives

*"You are with me, your rod and your staff they comfort me"*  
Psalm 23:4b

**Issue for Reflection:** What do you trust to give you security in life (investments, relationships, talents, achievements etc....)? What about it makes you feel secure? What kind of security is Jesus offering? (Isa 40:10-11, Psalm 23, Psalm 95:6-7, Psalm 100:3, Luke 15:1-7, 2 Cor 1:3-4)

<sup>14</sup> *"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—* <sup>15</sup> *just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.* <sup>16</sup> *I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.*

3) We are gathered together by the work of the **CROSS**

- Our Good Shepherd's care extends to dying on our behalf. Because of his substitutionary death, we are able to call him our shepherd.

**Issue for reflection:** In his death, Jesus invites us into life-true life, real life, eternal life. Have you found it?