

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #167

(Note: You can read the online Newspaper edition of this post [here](#).)

Jesus Declares: "I AM the Good Shepherd"

John 10.11-13

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

12 "The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

| | CONTEXT DIGEST |
|---------------------|--|
| Location | The Streets of Jerusalem |
| Timeline | September (Month 31) |
| Jesus' Life Context | Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry |
| | B. Jesus' Ministry at the Feast of Tabernacles |
| | 5. Jesus' Final Teaching at Tabernacles: "I AM the Door, and Good Shepherd |
| Title | iii. Jesus Declares: "I AM the Good Shepherd" |

COMMENT:

In today's news, Jesus made his fourth "I AM" declaration: ***"I AM the good Shepherd."***

This statement built on the imagery of the third statement, ***"I AM the Gate for the sheep."*** Only a good shepherd will protect and provide for his flock as fully as Jesus, the gatekeeper does.

"The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

It is not surprising that Jesus described his willingness to die for his sheep as the essence of being good. This identifies goodness as love.

Since Jesus loves his enemies enough to give up his own life for them, it's a forgone conclusion that he will provide anything else his sheep need as well. Compared to the gift of his own perfect life on the cross, Jesus' other provisions for us are relatively small. And, his death proves he is utterly faithful.

There is no question then, that Jesus' loving death for his enemies is the signature that best qualifies him forever as ***"the good shepherd."***

In addition to the size of Jesus' sacrifice (everything), the timing of it also magnifies his love. He did it when each of us was still his enemy.

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This gives us great confidence in his unconditional love and future provision for us. Since Jesus gave everything for us when we were his enemies, how much more will he continue to love and provide for us after his grace has transformed us into his friends? No wonder Jesus said that he came to give us **“abundant life.”**

In contrast, "hired hands" like the Pharisees only work with the sheep for their own personal benefit. When care-giving requires sacrifice rather than self-advancement, hirelings flee from paying the price. They are only working for their pay check, not the sheep.

The devil is self-seeking. The Trinity is self-giving. This is the difference between light and darkness; love and hate; the Divine and the devilish, as Jesus explained in Chapter 8.

The degree of sacrifice a person makes is the true measure of their love for others. Jesus made the infinite sacrifice, in the worst of circumstances. He is therefore the ultimate lover of our souls. He alone can say: ***"I AM the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."***

APPLICATION:

Jesus said: "Love each other as I have first loved you." JN 13.34B

What will you do today to express Jesus' love to those around you...as he has first loved you?

What will you do to communicate your love and gratitude to Jesus for being your "Good Shepherd?"