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**Sermon: *“The Good Shepherd Who Calls, Cares & Divides”***

**Scripture: John 10:1-21**

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**Introduction:**

* John 10 is the continuation of the account of the man born blind. Jesus is still speaking to the Pharisees.
* John 10 makes it clear that Jesus is the fulfillment of OT prophecies of God’s Shepherd.

*OT Scripture: Ezekiel 34:21-24; Isaiah 40:10-11*

1. **Jesus Gathers His Own Sheep. (v. 1-6)**

* The Good Shepherd calls the sheep and they follow willingly. The imposters prey upon the sheep and the sheep flee.
* By using a figure of speech with a familiar theme which everyone grasped, Jesus taught a spiritual truth which only some understood.

1. **Jesus Gathers His Sheep for Security & Abundance. (v. 7-10)**

* Jesus is the only gateway to fullness.
* Several promises which Jesus has given to his flock:
* He will hear us (John 14:12-14)
* He is with us always (Matthew 28:16-20)
* He will never reject you (John 6:37)
* He will love you (John 14:21)
* He will be your friend (John 15:14-15)
* He is coming back for you (John 14:1-6)
* God’s promises are never empty like the promises of the world. He does not promise success or stuff, but fullness and blessing in himself.

**III. Jesus Gathers His Flock by Giving and Retaking His Life. (v. 11-18)**

* How does the Good Shepherd gather his sheep? He gave his life for them

**Any shepherd can give their life for the sheep. Most wouldn’t.**

**Only one can take his life back up. He did.**

* Why did Jesus promise to lay down his life for the sheep?
* Because the sheep are HIS. (*Micah 5:4)*
* Because he cares for the sheep...all of them.
* Because he knows them like he knows the Father. (v. *Isaiah 43:1-2)*
* Because Christ died & rose again, you can be fully known AND **still** fully loved.

Scripture: Romans 8:31-39

**Conclusion** (John 10:19-21)

It comes down to this divide. Do you believe that Jesus was INSANE or DIVINE?

Those who see will hear, come, enter, follow and worship.

**Questions to Consider:**

1. Why did Jesus use figures of speech (analogies and metaphors) when speaking with the leaders and people?
2. How does Jesus describe the Pharisees throughout John 9:39-10:21?
3. In what ways do the teachings of Jesus in John 10 provide peace, rest and joy for you?
4. What promises of Jesus are most helpful to you? In what ways do they strengthen you?
5. Jesus said of his sheep, “I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.” Why is this such a powerful statement?
6. Clearly verses 15-18 foreshadow the cross and resurrection. What roles do each play in gathering the Good Shepherd’s flock?
7. What are the appropriate responses to Jesus revealing of himself as the Good Shepherd?