



April 6, 2025

I Am

"The Shepherd"

John 10:10-21 (11-18 below)

¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. ¹²A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. ¹³The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep. ¹⁴"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, ¹⁵just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd. ¹⁷"The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. ¹⁸No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded."

Sermon Summary:

The "I Am" statements are a series of declarations made by Jesus in the Gospel of John which underscore His divine identity and mission. Each of these statements serves not only as a reflection of His nature but also as a way of revealing how He fulfills the spiritual needs of humanity. Jesus wasn't just exercising positive self-talk when He made these bold statements. He was letting the first-century Jews, familiar with God's definition of Himself, know that He truly was God incarnate, the Messiah they were waiting for.

It's important to consider that He knew who He was, and He wanted us to clearly know, too. He can't be minimized to merely our "ticket to heaven" but must be seen as our daily sustenance, our direction, our protector, our sacrificial Savior, our victory over death, our access to the Father and eternal life.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. Have you ever met anyone famous? Who?
2. What are you currently reading?
3. Who was your favorite band in high school?
4. What's your favorite breakfast cereal?

Scripture Study Questions:

1. Who does Jesus declare himself to be in his fourth "I Am" statement?
2. According to verse 11, what will a shepherd do for his sheep?
3. Compare the actions of a hired hand and a shepherd when a wolf attacks the flock.
4. According to verse 14, what is the relationship between a shepherd and his sheep?
5. Who does Jesus compare the relationship between the sheep and shepherd to?



6. Who are the “other sheep” that Jesus is referring to in verse 16?
7. According to Jesus, why does the Father love Jesus?
8. Who made the choice for Jesus to sacrifice his life?

Application Questions:

1. How have you experienced Jesus as the Good Shepherd in your own life?
2. Do you consider Jesus, the Good Shepherd, your leader? Why or why not?
3. Jesus willingly chose to sacrifice his life for you. What goes through your mind as you read that statement?
4. Read Psalm 23. What statement in the chapter do you resonate with the most. Why?
5. How are you doing in your reading of the Gospel of John?