

THE WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST

ACCORDING TO JOHN - *I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD*

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 9

John 10:11-18 ESV

What makes Jesus the Good Shepherd?

1. Intimacy: He is a shepherd who knows and is known by his sheep.

John 10:14 ESV [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;

- **John 15:9 ESV**

2. Inclusive: He is a shepherd whose sheep are not from just one fold.

John 10:16 ESV [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.

- **Revelation 5:9 ESV**

3. Sovereign: He is a shepherd who has authority.

John 10:18 ESV [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."

- **Matthew 26:51-53 ESV**

4. Sacrifice: He is a shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:11-13, 15, 17 ESV [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 . . . [15] just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep . . . [17] For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.

- **Revelation 5:9 ESV**

Who is Jesus?

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (1952; Harper Collins: 2001) 51-52.

3 Scenarios and 3 Suggestions

A. Those who are prying into Christianity

Ask Jesus to help you see who he is and believe in him.

B. Those who are playing at Christianity

Recognize your need and seek healing from your blindness.

C. Those who are practicing their Christianity

Owen: *The next direction is, that all our thoughts concerning Christ and his glory should be accompanied with admiration, adoration, and thanksgiving. For this is such an object of our thoughts and affections as, in this life, we can never fully comprehend, — an ocean whose depths we cannot look into. ...*

- **Admire the Good Shepherd**
- **Adore the Good Shepherd**
- **Thank the Good Shepherd**

Owen continues: *... when by faith we have attained a view of the glory of Christ, in our contemplations on his person, we should not pass it over as a notion of truth which we assent unto, — namely, that he is thus glorious in himself, — but endeavour to affect our hearts with it, as that wherein our own principal interest does lie; wherein it will be effectual unto the transformation of our souls into his image.*