

EASTER

The Good Shepherd and His Sheep John 10:11-18

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."

John 10:11-18 NLT

Christ's sacrifice was voluntary. He was in complete control of his suffering and death. It was not an accident. This reminds us that sorrow for his suffering is misplaced. We should feel sorry for our sin. Do you feel sorry for Christ and His suffering, or do you feel sorrow for your sin that led to His suffering and ultimately will lead to your repentance?

[Matthew 26:53](#); [John 18:6](#); [John 19:30](#); [2 Corinthians 7:10](#)

1. Christ's sacrifice was substitutionary. Meaning that he substituted his perfect righteousness for our imperfect righteousness. AW Tozer says the only sin Jesus ever had was ours. And the only righteousness we can ever have is His. Has Christ been your substitute? Are you relying on your own righteousness or the righteousness of Christ?
2. Christ's sacrifice was sufficient for all people. He unifies us. As a result, unity should be sought and strived for. In light of this, who are you rejecting that Christ has accepted?
3. The Good Shepherd knows His Sheep. This word for "know" means that this is a deep personal relationship. Similar to Christ's relationship with His Father. Read [Philippians 3:10-11](#) and ask yourself, do you know Christ as your only source for salvation, strength, endurance, wisdom, and grace? And will you endure suffering to let God sanctify you to become more like His Son?
[Acts 4:12](#); [2 Corinthians 12:9](#)