

Sermon Guide – April 21, 2024 – The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. ¹² A 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. ¹³ The 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, ¹⁵ just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I 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. ¹⁸ No 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.”

What comes to mind when you think “good shepherd?”

Pastor Cindy mentions that the Greek word for “good” here is “kalos,” can be translated “model” rather our traditional meaning of good as opposed to bad. Jesus is the Good Shepherd – the model of everything that a shepherd should be. What qualities for a “good shepherd” are listed in the passage above?

Sheep have a special relationship with their shepherd. They follow where their shepherd leads. They recognize their shepherd’s voice and follow that voice in favor or other competing voices. We are like those sheep. It is important for us to follow our Good Shepherd’s voice rather than yield to the other voices that compete for our attention. What are the other voices that call to you? How are you able to resist those voices in favor of Jesus’ call upon your life?

