

Jesus, The Good Shepherd, A Devotional  
by Sharon Reid

John 10. Jesus the Good Shepherd. The title that God the Father bestowed upon His Son, is full of meaning--multi-factoral in its promise. Ez.34:11-12. How awesome is our God!

Consider the picture. What do you notice? Take a minute to consider the artist's rendering of what the Good Shepherd means. Write down your observations, if you want to.

Now, consider yourself and your past and present life circumstances. Have you ever wandered far from the flock and the safety of the Great Shepherd? Were you ever tempted to stray, discover forbidden territories? If not, have your thoughts or the persuasions of your friends, acquaintances, or even strangers, ever tempted you to consider straying? How about in the dark othe the night, when the work day is done? When no one is watching? God is looking over you, even when you think you are alone. He offers protection 24/7.

In Luke 15:3-7, Jesus speaks of His dedication to all of his sheep. When one is lost, he will "leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture to go after the one who is lost until He finds it". "And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing". Yes, the Shepherd rejoices when he finds it!

This is no hired help shepherd; this shepherd loves his sheep, each and every one! Jesus, our shepherd, literally laid down His life to save every one of His sheep. And then He arose from the grave to continue to offer salvation to anyone who wants to enter the fold.

Ps. 16:11, I Peter 2:25, Rev. 7:17

Like a shepherd He will tend His flock. In His arms He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom. Isaiah 40:11.

As in Psalm 23, the Lord comforts you and protects you. He guides you back to the flock.

Regarding the picture, do you love that the little lamb is black? Have you ever been the black sheep? Jesus rescues those, just the same! Consider the water fall in the back ground. Is it a danger to the sheep who wanders? Is it so tempting to go and visit? Or does it seem like a thing of beauty, so far away that it is hard to imagine ever reaching it? But then, when it is finally reached, the sometimes difficult journey is so worth it? Rev.22:1, Rev. 7:17

One final thought. We are exhorted in Peter 5:1-5 to shepherd the flock of God, to share of the joy of His return, in the name of Love. Pray for the Holy Spirit to awaken your courage to be a good deciple. God Bless.