



New Testament 3

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Law/Gospel

Because of sin, I face physical and spiritual danger in this world. **Jesus, my Good Shepherd, guards and protects me from sin, death, and the power of the devil, feeding me through His Word and Sacraments to keep my faith strong.**

Bible Words

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me."
John 10:11, 14

Pharisees

Pharisees followed God's Law very closely, especially the oral traditions not written in the Torah. They believed their strict obedience made them righteous. Serious scholars, they spent a lot of time reading and interpreting the Law. They were the first to point out the sins of others with pious self-righteousness. They were not baptized by John and felt threatened by Jesus and His teachings. Luke 7:29–30 says the Pharisees rejected God's purpose for them by not receiving John's Baptism. They were involved in arresting and killing Jesus.

The Good Shepherd

John 10:1–18

For people unaccustomed to the ways of farming and animal care, the Bible may sometimes seem confusing. Jesus used many agricultural images in parables and teaching. His teaching of the Good Shepherd is an image to understand and cherish.

When Jesus spoke about the Good Shepherd, he was talking with the Pharisees, popular religious teachers of the day. Allegories about good and bad shepherds were familiar, everyday images the Pharisees understood.

The life of a shepherd was not easy. Shepherds often cared for sheep in wilderness areas, separated from other people. They led their sheep to good pastures and still waters every day. (A fast, rushing current could sweep sheep away to drown.)

Shepherds sheltered their sheep in a sheepfold, an area encased by a rock wall with a door and a roof over part of it. Sometimes they used caves. Shepherds called sheep by name as they passed into the fold. At night, the shepherd slept at the door or watched over the sheep from the top of the wall or the roof.

A shepherd's equipment included a staff, a long pole with a hook on the end. With this, the shepherd climbed steep hillsides and guided and rescued endangered sheep. He also carried a rod, a club about two feet long, as a weapon against thieves and dangerous animals. Shepherds often carried a horn of oil to heal wounds and a reed pipe to play calming music.

So, when Jesus said He was the Good Shepherd, He meant that He cares for and protects His sheep. When He said His sheep listen to His voice, He meant we know Him, follow Him, trust Him, and hear His voice in His Word.

When Jesus said the hired hand flees from a wolf, but the Good Shepherd protects His sheep, He spoke about protecting us. When He said there is one flock and one shepherd, He referred to those who believe in Him as the Christ, our Savior, who died for our sin and rose from the dead to give us new life.

Read Psalm 23 to gain new insight on our Lord and Good Shepherd.

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