

SERMON NOTES - John 10:1-21

 The Good Shepherd is the .....

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**1** **When you think of a shepherd, what comes to mind?** What comes to mind when you think of a sheep? What strikes you as being most significant about the shepherd's relationship to the sheep? (John 10:2-5)

**2** **Throughout Scripture, God describes Himself as the Shepherd of His people.** Choose three or four of the verses that follow and meditate on what they say about God as a Shepherd: Genesis 49:23-24, Psalm 23, Psalm 78:52-53, Isaiah 40:9-11, Matthew 9:36, Hebrews 13:20-21.

 a. How do these verses speak to the burdens you are facing right now?

**3** **Not only was God the Shepherd of his people Israel, but he also gave the care of his people over to kings, prophets, priests.** They, too, were to act as shepherds over God's flock and care for them. According to Ezekiel 34:1-10, how can you identify a bad shepherd? What are some characteristics of bad shepherds in our day?

 a. What implications do these verses have for all who offer spiritual care for God's people? (Think of your pastors, the deacons, community group leaders, ministry leaders, elder candidates, interns, children's teachers, disciple-makers, etc)

 b. What promise does God give for those who have been under bad shepherds? What stands out to you about this prophecy? (Ez. 34:11-16)

 c. What encourages you about God's fulfillment of this promise? See also 2 Sam. 7:12-16, Ezekiel 34:23-24?

**4** **The Good Shepherd came that His sheep might have life and have it abundantly.** But, we often fail to experience the benefits of what Jesus came to give us. Why do you think that is? Take time to define as a group what having life abundantly should look like.

