



Gospel of John

2-19-23



- 1a In the Beginning – Love from Eternal Past
- 1b Come & See – Love Calls Forth Disciples
- 2-3 Everyone Who Believes – God Loved World
- 4 But Whoever Drinks – Love the Living Water
- 5 Pick Up Your Mat – Loving the Lonely
- 6 I Am **BREAD** – Love the **BREAD** of Life
- 7 He Sent Me – Love Father Who Sent His Son
- 8 I Am the **LIGHT** – Love the **LIGHT**
- 9 You Have Seen Me – Love the Blind
- 10 I Know My Own
- 11 I Am the Resurrection

10:14 I am the

Good Shepherd

Love the Good Shepherd



Good Shepherd, c. A.D. 300–350
Catacombs of Domitilla, Rome

John the Evangelist & Peter
by Albrecht Dürer (1526)

FIRST
Big Congratulations to
Toby Spurlock
Art Spurlock
Tyler County
Wild Game Dinner
Hunting Heritage Award



NEWS ALERT: False Shepherds using computer Artificial Intelligence to WRITE Sermons! *Beaumont Enterprise (2-16-23): A5*

Talk about your
“Soulless” Message

Shepherd Reader
ceramic creation

Shepherd Pretender
relying on RAM,
Random Access Memory
Over the Holy Spirit

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023 A5

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Sermons written by ChatGPT have no soul

By David Crary
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Among sermon writers, there is fascination — and unease — over the fast-expanding abilities of artificial-intelligence chatbots.

For now, the evolving consensus among clergy is this: Yes, they can write a passably competent sermon.

But no, they can't replicate the passion of actual preaching.

"It lacks a soul — I don't know how else to say it," said Hershael York, a pastor in Kentucky who also is dean of the school of theology and a professor of Christian preaching at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Sermons are meant to be the core of a worship service — and often are faith leaders' best weekly shot at grabbing their congregation's attention to impart theological and moral guidance.

Lazy pastors might be tempted to use AI for this purpose, York said, "but not the great shepherds, the ones who love preaching, who love their people."

A rabbi in New York, Joshua Franklin, recently told his congregation at the Jewish Center



Robert Burnsted/Associated Press

Rabbi Joshua Franklin inside the Jewish Center of the Hamptons in East Hampton, New York on Friday. Franklin experimented writing a sermon using artificial intelligence software Chat GPT.

of the Hamptons that he was going to deliver a plagiarized sermon — dealing with such issues as trust, vulnerability and forgiveness.

Upon finishing, he asked the

worshippers to guess who wrote it. When they appeared stumped, he revealed that the writer was ChatGPT, responding to his request to write a 1,000-word sermon related to

that week's lesson from the Torah.

"Now, you're clapping — I'm deathly afraid," Franklin said when several congregants applauded. "I thought truck driv-

ers were going to go long before the rabbi, in terms of losing our positions to artificial intelligence."

"ChatGPT might be really great at sounding intelligent, but the question is, can it be empathetic? And that, not yet at least, it can't," added Franklin.

He said AI has yet to develop compassion and love, and is unable to build community and relationships.

"Those are the things that bring us together," the rabbi concluded.

Rachael Keefe, pastor of Living Table United Church of Christ in Minneapolis, undertook an experiment similar to Franklin's.

She posted a brief essay in her online Pastoral Notes in January, addressing how to attend to one's mental health amid the stresses of the holiday season.

It was pleasant, but somewhat bland, and at the end, Keefe revealed that it was written by ChatGPT.

"While the facts are correct, there's something deeper missing," she wrote.

"AI cannot understand community and inclusivity and how important these things are in creating church."

John 10:22-23 Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in the colonnade



John 10 – after “Gate & Good Shepherd”

After “Father in Me, I in Him”

John 10:40 Jesus goes across Jordan

Where John had been baptizing ...

Many people come ...

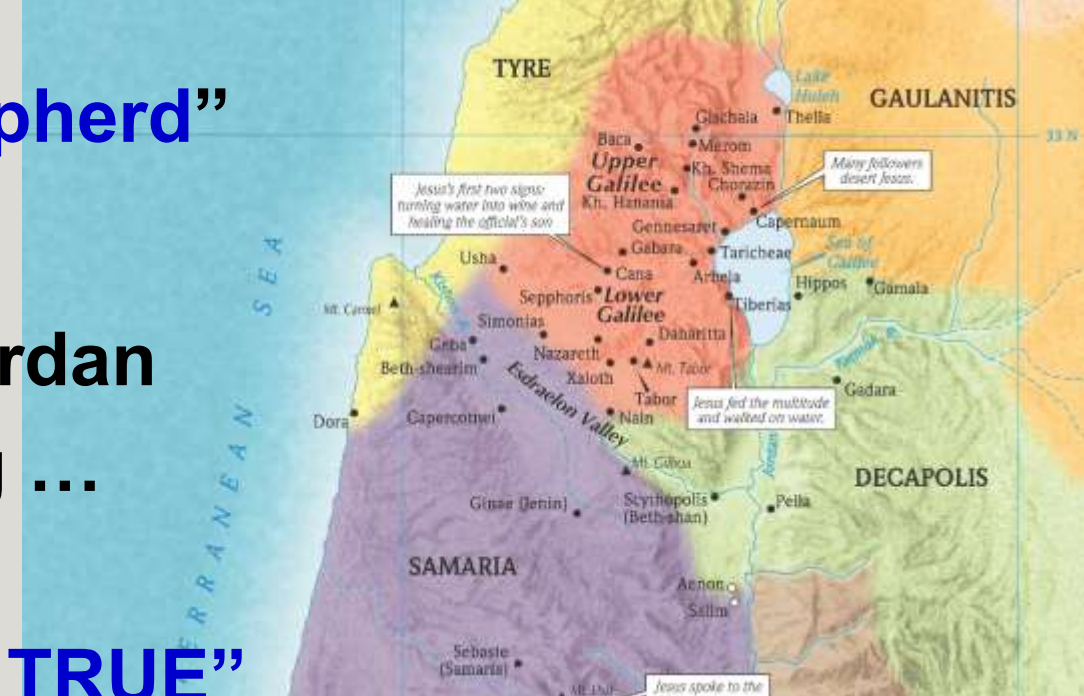
“All that John said about Jesus is TRUE”

10:42 “And in that place many

believed in Jesus.

Good Shepherd seems too plain

for Jewish leaders to grasp



John 10 – “I am the Gate ... Good Shepherd”

Jesus presents a Double Picture, or Double Metaphor

Jesus is the *Gate* and the *Good Shepherd*

APPEARS “Gate” was unclear, so Jesus expands

- 1 “Truly I tell you Pharisees, ANYONE who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.**
- 2 One who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.**
- 3 Gatekeeper opens the gate for him ...
sheep listen to his voice**

WHAT does that mean? How can we get comfort here?



John 10:4-8 “I am the Gate ...”

**herein is an extended metaphor ... an *allegory*
easy at first blush ... yet its *reality* is elusive**

**John 10:4 When he has brought out all his own,
he goes ahead of them ... his sheep follow him because
they know his voice.**

5 But they will never follow a stranger ...

6 ... Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

**7 Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you,
I am the gate for the sheep.**

8 All ... come before me are thieves and robbers



**Surely, you seen a
Sheep Doggy at work**

PLEASE ... do not

Do *Not*

**expect the PASTOR
to do *ALL* the work**

**Pastors need Sheep Dogs
in the church too**

**Good Men & Women
help, serve, and guide the sheep**

The Body of Christ



11K

John 10:9 I am the **GATE**

whoever enters *through* me will be saved.

They will come *in* and *go out* and *find* pasture.

10 Thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy

I have come that they may have **LIFE** ... to the **FULL**.

GATE ... easy for Jesus to say ... *not certain of all that TODAY*

Like the pharisees ... that is hard to grasp ...

Excepting that there is only **ONE GATE** ... one **Way** ...

What does GATE mean? That we must come **THRU Him?**

A.D. 31^{ish} ... you sitting there hearing that ... **WHAT** is **THAT?**

Pretty sure that was MORE elusive for them THEN than US



John 10:11 moves to clearer skies ... clouds remain

I am the Good Shepherd

The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

WE GRASP that immediately ... easy to see

yet “Gate” to “Shepherd” ... how is that? ... I have no idea

I have no idea ... these are spiritual ... definitive ... *still elusive*

Yet *Good Shepherd* is much closer to home ... Jesus expands

12 The hired hand is NOT the shepherd and

does not own the sheep. So when he sees the
wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away.

Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.



John 10:11 moves to clearer skies ... clouds remain

I am the Good Shepherd

THIS is the *Most Personal Picture* ... metaphor

- ✓ Most Homely, Dear, Homespun, Familiar, Precious
- ✓ Easiest to Grasp ... *everyone* knew a shepherd
- ✓ How Jesus is BEST scene by THEM & US – *Protector*
- ✓ How Jesus SEES them & us – *SHEEP*, weak, needy
- ✓ Most Personal Down-to-Earth Picture, Metaphor

ALL of us want a Good Shepherd ...

NOT ALL of us think of ourselves as SHEEP

Nevertheless, ALL of us are STILL SHEEP in a Wolf-filled World



**Good Shepherd ... early Christian
Art & Art in the Catacombs**

**CULTURALLY linked to Kriophoros
“Ram Bearer” & almost identical**

**Tanagra, Greece, story of Hermes
saving city from plague by
walking around it carrying a RAM**

**Hermes – Herald of Gods, protector
of boundaries, heralds, shepherds**

**Hermes Kriophoros is Ram-bearer
goes back to 500 B.C. MFA Boston**

MFA Boston paid \$32,500 in 1899

Good Shepherd, c. 300–350,
Catacombs of Domitilla, Rome



Roman Marble Kriophoros, Ram-
bearer, copy of one from 1st century
B.C. or 2nd century A.D. from 5th century sculpture

Interestingly enough

Some claim Good Shepherd came from Pagan Greece Kriophoros in c. 500 B.C.

Of course, just another attempt to decrease the uniqueness of Christ

Oddly, never seem to connect Psalm 23 from David's song from c. 1000 B.C.

The Lord is my Shepherd,

**I shall not want, He maketh me
to lie down in green pastures:**

He leadeth me beside the still waters

Good Shepherd, c. 300–350,
Catacombs of Domitilla, Rome



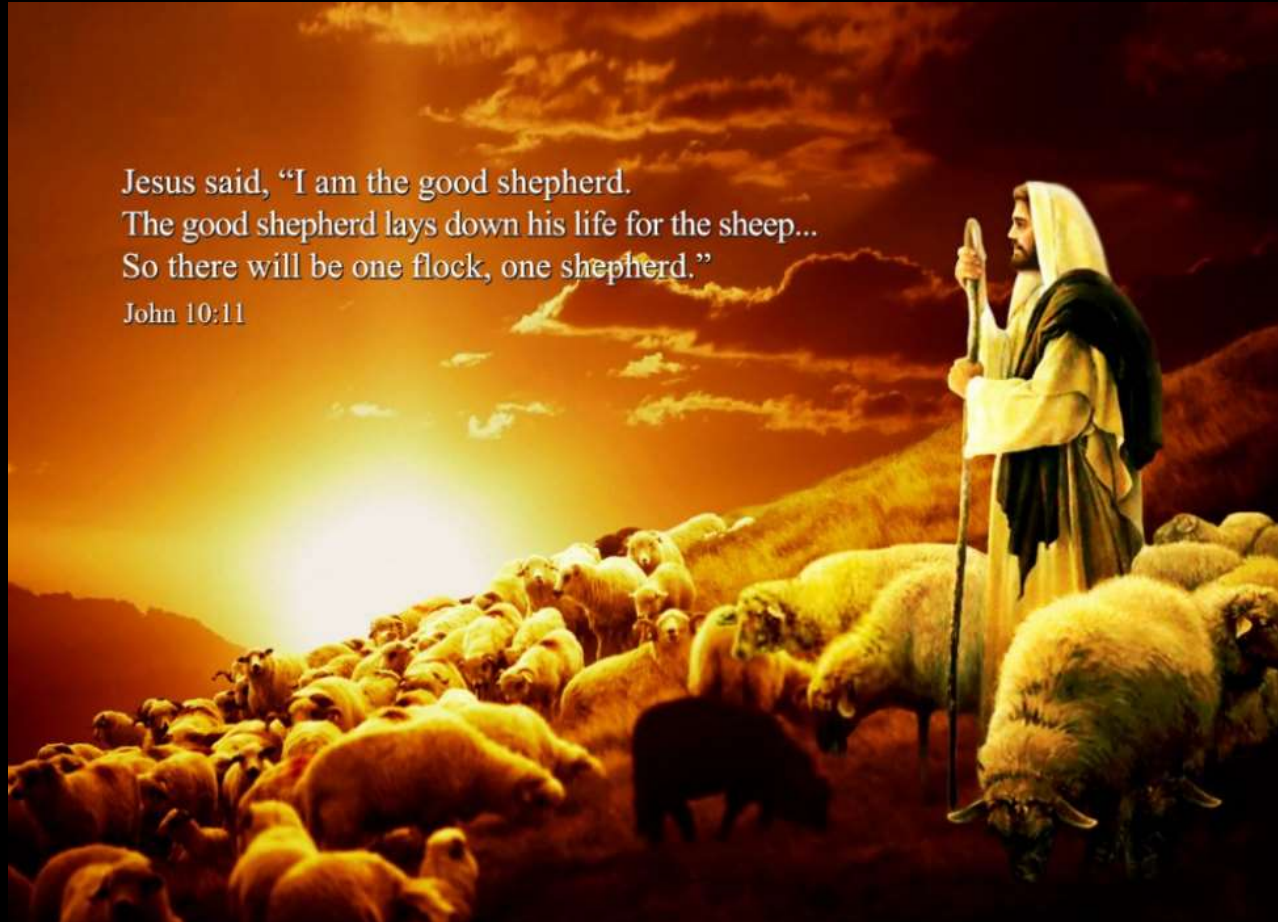
Late Roman Marble Kriophoros, Ram-Bearer, copy of one from 1st century B.C. from 5th century sculpture

Roman Catholic Art

Some of the most common



Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep...
So there will be one flock, one shepherd."
John 10:11



Of course ...

There ARE some Sheep

That NEED much more

ATTENTION



Actual footage of
Jesus rescuing me
from my horrible
decisions

Jean-Baptiste Oudry painting of Aesop's Fable (1686–1755)

A stray Lamb drinking early one morning
on the bank of a woodland stream....

Hungry Wolf came by farther up the
stream, hunting for something to eat.

He soon got his eyes on the Lamb.

**As a rule, Mr. Wolf snapped up such
delicious morsels without fuss**

But this Lamb looked so helpless and
innocent that the Wolf felt he ought
to have an excuse for taking its life.

“How dare you paddle around in my stream and stir up all the mud!”

he shouted fiercely. “You deserve to be punished severely....



**Jean-Baptiste Oudry painting
of Aesop's Fable (1686–1755)**

**“But, your highness,” replied the
trembling Lamb, “do not be angry!**

**“I cannot possibly muddy the water
you are drinking up there.”**

**“Remember, you are upstream and
I am downstream.”**

**“Besides, I have heard that you told
lies about me last year!” snapped Wolf.**

**“How could I have done so?” pleaded
Lamb. “I wasn't BORN until this year.”**

“If it wasn't you, it was your brother!” snarled Wolf.

“I have no brothers,” replied little lamb.



**Jean-Baptiste Oudry painting
of Aesop's Fable (1686–1755)**

**“Well, then,” snarled the Wolf,
“It was someone in your family.
“But no matter who it was,
“I do not intend to be talked out
by my breakfast.”**

**And without more words the
Wolf seized the poor Lamb and
carried her off to the forest.**

MORALE of the story is:

The tyrant can always find an excuse for his tyranny.

The unjust will not listen to the reasoning of the innocent.



Jean-Baptiste Oudry painting
of Aesop's Fable (1686–1755)

EVERYONE knows

Sheep = FOOD

Sheep have NO Defense

TOTALLY Helpless

Wolf LOVES that about
Sheep being meaty
and *totally* weak

Wolf ONLY Fears the

***GOOD* Shepherd**



**Charles H. Spurgeon (1834–1892)
on Sheep & their Shepherd (1871)**

**If Christ were not our wisdom,
we should soon fall a prey to the destroyer.
Every grain of true wisdom that we possess
we have derived from him;
of ourselves we are dull and giddy;
folly is bound up in our heart.**

John 10:11


**I am the Good Shepherd
The Good Shepherd
lays down his life for the sheep**



by Alexander Melville
(1834-1892)



by Gustave Doré
(1832-1883)

An aerial photograph of a lush green valley. A winding road or path cuts through the center of the valley. In the lower portion of the image, a herd of sheep is grazing on the grass. The overall scene is peaceful and pastoral.

Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us

Charles H. Spurgeon (1834–1892) - on Sheep & their Shepherd (1871)

The more conscious you are, dear brethren,
of your own deficiencies,
your lack of stamina, discretion, sagacity,
and all the instincts of self-preservation,
the more **delighted** you will be to see that the
Lord accepts you under these conditions,
and **calls** you the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.

John 10:11

I am the Good Shepherd

The Good Shepherd

lays down his life for the sheep



by Alexander Melville
(1834-1892)



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John 10:14 Jesus *repeats* 10:11

I am the Good Shepherd

I know my sheep and my sheep know me—

15 just as the Father knows me & I know the Father—

I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen.

I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice,
and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

What is the message of the Good Shepherd?

BEST Shepherd Protects the Sheep with His *LIFE*



Charles H. Spurgeon (1834–1892) - on Sheep & their Shepherd (1871)

He discerns you as you are,
claims you as his own,
foresees all the ills to which you are exposed,
yet tends you as his flock,
sets store by every lamb of the fold, and so
feeds you according to the integrity of his heart ...
guides you by the skilfulness of his hands....
Oh, what sweet music there is to us in the name
which is given to our Lord Jesus Christ of
“the Good Shepherd”!

It not only describes the office he holds,
but it sets forth the sympathy he feels,
the aptness he shows ... promote our well-being.



by Alexander Melville
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Savior, Lik

d Lead Us

TOTALLY Helpless

Charles H. Spurgeon (1834–1892) - on Sheep & their Shepherd (1871)

**What if the sheep be weak,
yet is the shepherd strong to guard his flock
from the prowling wolf
or the roaring lion.**

**If the sheep suffer privation because the soil is barren,
yet is the shepherd able to
lead them into pasturage ...**

**If they be foolish, yet he goes before them,
cheers them with his voice ...**

John 10:11

**I am the Good Shepherd
The Good Shepherd
lays down his life for the sheep**



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John 10:17 *Jesus' own LIFE*

**18 No one takes it from me,
but I lay it down of my own accord.**

**I have authority to lay it down and
authority to take it up again.**

This command I received from my Father.”

If just hearing the Gospel of John ...

These are strange words ... elusive ... pointing somewhere

Jesus was *POINTING* to his Sacrificial Death & Resurrection

YET ... to the Jerusalem Tailor, Baker, & Healed Blind Man

These are ODD Words of Special *AUTHORITY*



Charles H. Spurgeon (1834–1892) - on Sheep & their Shepherd (1871)

**There cannot be a flock without a shepherd;
neither a shepherd truly without a flock.**

The two must go together.

They are the fullness of each other.

**As the church is the fullness of him
that filleth *ALL* in *ALL* ...**

**That I am like a sheep is a sorry reflection; but
that I have a shepherd charms away the sorrow...**

John 10:11

I am the Good Shepherd

The Good Shepherd

lays down his life for the sheep



by Alexander Melville
(1834-1892)



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John 10:19-23 *debate on WHO Jesus is*

24 The Jews who were there gathered around him:

“How long will you keep us in suspense?

If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

25-27 Jesus dodges ... they *should* believe the works

26 You don't believe because you are not my sheep.

27 My sheep listen to my voice ... they follow me.

28 I give them Eternal LIFE, and they shall NEVER perish;

NO ONE will snatch them out of my hand.

Beautiful and comforting words ... *more* so to us, today

What means this “Eternal Life” and “Never Perish” c. A.D. 31?



Charles H. Spurgeon (1834–1892) - on Sheep & their Shepherd (1871)

It even becomes a gladsome thing to be weak,
that I may rely on **His** strength;
to be full of wants,
that I may draw from **His** fullness;

to be shallow and often at my wit's end,
that I may be always regulated by **His** wisdom.

John 10:11

I am the Good Shepherd

The Good Shepherd


lays down his life for the sheep



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An aerial photograph of a lush green valley. A winding road or path cuts through the center of the valley. In the lower portion of the image, a herd of sheep is grazing on the grass. The overall scene is peaceful and pastoral.

Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us

John 10:29-23

29 My Father, who has given them—*SHEEP*—to me,
is greater than all

no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and the Father are one.”



WE get it—we been *trained* ... read the whole Bible

What about the Tailor, Baker, and Healed Blind Man?

10:31-39 Jews want to stone Jesus for *BLASPHEMY*

We see that as cruelty ... Jews saw it as seriously sacred DUTY

40-42 Jesus across the Jordan ... many follow & believe

Charles H. Spurgeon (1834–1892) - on Sheep & their Shepherd (1871)

**Unto you, ye lowly ones,
who delight in the valley of humiliation ...**

**To you it is that the Good Shepherd
becomes dear;**

**and to you will he give
to lie down in**

green pastures

beside the still waters.



by Alexander Melville
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John 10:11

I am the Good Shepherd

The Good Shepherd

lays down his **LIFE** for the Sheep

Savior, Like A Sh

Us

me & you >

