**THE GOOD SHEPHERD LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP**

John 10:1-13 (Key verse 11)

*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

1. In what sense are sheep vulnerable and helpless creatures? What is the role of a shepherd? What does the fact that the good shepherd *lays down his life for the sheep* (11) implies about his attitude towards the sheep?
2. As shepherds of God’s flock, what were the Pharisees’ attitude towards people? (1,10a,12-13) Why did Jesus compare them to *a thief and a robber* and *the hired hand*? (Ezekiel 34:1-4[[1]](#footnote-1); 9:28,34) How did people react to the Pharisees as their shepherds? (5)
3. Practically, how does the good shepherd treat his sheep? (2-4) What does it mean that the sheep recognize his voice? What does it mean that he calls them by name? Why is it significant that he leads and does not drive the sheep?
4. How was Jesus a good shepherd for people? (9:6-7,35-39) How did people respond to Jesus as their shepherd? (4b, Luke 6:17-18[[2]](#footnote-2)) What can we learn from Jesus and the Pharisees on how to be good shepherds for university students in 2022?
5. Ultimately, why did Jesus come? (10) What does it mean *to have life, and have it to the full?* (9, John 14:6[[3]](#footnote-3), Psalm 23:1-6) What was the only way for us to have such a life? (Heb 9:22[[4]](#footnote-4)) What did Jesus willingly do for us? (11, 18a; Heb 2:17[[5]](#footnote-5); Isa 53:4-5[[6]](#footnote-6)) What does this tell us about Jesus?
6. Why are we both sheep and shepherds? As Jesus’ beloved sheep, what should we do in 2022? (4) What should we do to be good shepherds for God’s flock this year? (11)

1. **Eze 34:1-4** ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? 3You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. 4You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. L**uke 6:17-28** A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, 18who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **John 14:6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **Heb 9:22** without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. **Heb 2:17** For this reason he had to be made like them, [***k***](https://biblehub.com/niv/hebrews/2.htm#footnotes) fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. **Isa 53:4-5** Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering….But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)